

A. Miall

THE

THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXIII.—NEW SERIES, No. 897.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 1863.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 4d.
STAMPED 7d.

SPECIAL MEETINGS for UNITED PRAYER.—FREEMASONS' HALL Arrangements for the remainder of the Week:—

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8.

MORNING.—Chairman, Major-General Clarke; Address by Rev. S. Martin.
EVENING.—Chairman, R. N. Fowler, Esq.; Address by Rev. Henry Allon.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9.

MORNING.—Chairman, Major Straith; Address by Rev. G. A. Rogers, M.A.
EVENING.—Chairman, W. M'Arthur, Esq.; Address by

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10.

MORNING.—Chairman, the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.; Address by Rev. Benjamin Field.
EVENING.—Chairman, Thomas Chambers, Esq., Q.C.; Address by Rev. S. Minton, M.A.
Morning at 11; Evening at 8.30 each day.

300 NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPELS.

Of the 300 Chapels opened, commenced, and projected this year, the ENGLISH CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY has received applications to render pecuniary aid, as well as practical guidance, to 130. The additional income of the Society has enabled the Committee to promise pecuniary assistance to 53 of this number; leaving, however, 77 not yet aided. Most of these 77 cases are of first-class importance, and are dependent for accomplishment upon the Society's conditional help. The Committee absolutely need, in order to do the extraordinary work before them, 12,000l. in addition to the extra 8,000l. already paid and promised this year. Most of this additional 20,000l., when fully obtained, the Committee intend to employ in loans, on personal security, repayable without interest in easy instalments, spread over five to ten years, and so make it a permanent Loan Fund in Aid of Chapel Extension. Further donations in future years may raise this sum to the very desirable figure of 50,000l. The Committee now earnestly appeal to the members of our Churches and other friends for contributions towards the extra 12,000l. indispensably needed to mature most of the above 77 cases. For the extra work to which the Society is pledged the contributions already promised will be adequate. They plead only for means to do the additional work now pressing upon them for help, but which they cannot undertake without additional resources. Out of these 77 projected chapels what aid will be furnished to the stated preaching of the Gospel, Church organisation, educational, evangelistic, and missionary labours! What palpable Memorials of the noble sacrifices of our forefathers! What conclusive evidences of the potency of voluntarism, and what fountains of good to generations yet unborn! Can the silver and the gold which God has entrusted to His servants be devoted to a work more appropriate to our times, and more productive of the highest and most lasting good? Copies of the last Annual Report, or any other information, will be gladly supplied to all favourable to the object on application at the Office.

Contributions may be forwarded to the Chairman of the Committee, John Crossley, Esq., Halifax; to the Treasurers, Messrs. Joshua Wilson and John Finch; or the Secretary, the Rev. J. C. Galloway, A.M., at the Society's Office, 1, Moor-gate (entrance, 118, London Wall), London, E.C.
December, 1862.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—JUNIOR SCHOOL, under the Government of the Council of the College.

HEAD MASTER.—T. HEWITT KEY, A.M.
The School will RE-OPEN on TUESDAY, the 13th of January, 1863, for NEW PUPILS.
All the Boys must appear in their places without fail on Wednesday, the 14th, at a quarter-past Nine o'clock. The hours of attendance are from a quarter-past Nine to three-quarters-past Three. The afternoons of Wednesday and Saturday are devoted exclusively to Drawing.
Fee for the Term, 26s.
The subjects taught are Reading, Writing; the English, Latin, Greek, French, and German Languages; Ancient and English History; Geography, Physical and Political; Arithmetic and Book-keeping; the Elements of Mathematics; Chemistry and Natural Philosophy; Social Science; Drawing; and for extra Fees, Gymnastics and Fencing.
Prospectuses and further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.
CHARLES C. ATKINSON, Secretary.
December 24th, 1862.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVER-STOCK-HILL.

SIXTY CHILDREN will be ADMITTED into the School in 1863. Forms to fill up may be obtained at the Office of the Charity.
JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.
32, Ludgate-hill, E.C., London.

WANTED, in a GENERAL DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT, a YOUNG LADY, thoroughly competent at the Counter and Millinery. A Dissenter preferred.
Address, stating age, experience, salary, and reference, Mr. C. Rose, Draper, Dorking.

TO PARENTS.—A RETAIL and DISPENSING CHEMIST (Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain) has a VACANCY for a respectable and well-educated YOUTH as an APPRENTICE. Every facility is afforded for obtaining a thorough knowledge of the business.
Apply to G. Dowman, 160, High-street, Southampton.

TO TAILORS and WOOLLEN DRAPERS, and PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—T. and R. Gilman, Tailors and Woollen Drapers, Hanley, Staffordshire, have a VACANCY for a SON of a TAILOR who wishes a change for a limited period, or for a respectable YOUTH as an APPRENTICE. Reference allowed to the Rev. R. H. Smith, Birch-terrace, Hanley.

TO GROCERS and PROVISION MERCHANTS.—WANTED, by a respectable YOUNG MAN, age Twenty-six, a SITUATION. Had twelve years' experience in good houses, and is of thorough business habits.
Address, J. B., 29, Fellow-street, Kingsland-road, London, N.

WANTED to obtain LOWER NURSE-MAID'S PLACE in a Dissenting family for a Servant who may be trusted. Age Fifteen. Has lived in advertiser's family.
Address, Mrs. C. G. Haynes, Barkway, Royston, Herts.

WANTED, by a YOUNG MAN of good education, a SITUATION as a CLERK. He possesses a knowledge of Bookkeeping, is a correct Accountant, and has been in an office twelve months. Excellent testimonials can be given respecting character and ability.
Apply, Mr. S. Willett, East street, Saffron Walden.

TO DIVINES AT OR NEAR THE SEASIDE.—An Independent GENTLEMAN desires GRATUITOUS EMPLOYMENT, where Lodgings, with Private Board, could be had cheaply. At a farm or country cottage preferred. Inexperienced. State references.
Address, "Alpha," 9, London-street, Paddington, London, W.

A YOUNG LADY, Nineteen years of age, accustomed to teaching young children, wishes for an ENGAGEMENT as JUNIOR TEACHER in a LADIES' SCHOOL.
Address, M. S., Mr. W. Stevenson's, Shakespeare street, Nottingham.

A YOUNG LADY, who has had five years' experience in Tuition, wishes for a RE-ENGAGEMENT as RESIDENT GOVERNESS (or daily, if on the Croydon line), in a family where the children are under thirteen years of age. Acquirements—English, French, Music, and Drawing.
Address, R. M., Farmer's Library, Upper Norwood, Surrey.

A YOUNG LADY, member of an Independent Church, wishes to enter upon a fresh ENGAGEMENT in a family. She instructs in the usual branches of a good English education, French, and Music, with the Rudiments of German, Latin, Singing, and Drawing.
Address, E., Cheriton House, Haverstock hill, London, N.W.

WANTED, by a YOUNG LADY, in her nineteenth year, a SITUATION as JUNIOR TEACHER in a School, or as Governess in a Family where the children are young,—boys preferred.
Address, E. C., Myddleton House, Hoddeston, Herts.

WANTED, at the COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, Hounslow, Middlesex, TWO GOOD SERVANTS—one as PLAIN COOK, the other to attend to the Bedrooms, Clothing, &c., of the Pupils.
Apply to Mr. Geo. Verney.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—A few Christian parents, whose children have been for some years at a superior school in a most healthy locality near the sea, in the North of Devon, wish to recommend it to those who desire for their sons a Scriptural, solid, and liberal education, with the advantages of careful training and a happy home. They do this as a duty, conscientiously believing that the advantages offered are unusually many.
Charles Smale, Esq., Solicitor, 13, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, has kindly consented to supply references and information, with Prospectuses.

BUXTON.—WYE HOUSE.—The Rev. R. C. JESSOP, B.A., has a FEW VACANCIES. Terms, &c., on application.

PALMER HOUSE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.
PRINCIPALS—Rev. A. STEWART and SON.
The School will RE-OPEN on WEDNESDAY, the 28th instant.

BRIDPORT, DORSET.—Mrs. CANNON (widow of the late Rev. C. Cannon), informs her friends that the duties of her School will be RESUMED on THURSDAY, the 22nd inst.
Prospectuses and References sent on application.

MILL-HILL SCHOOL, HENDON, N.W., will RE-OPEN WEDNESDAY, Jan. 28th, 1863.
Applications for Admission or Prospectuses to Thomas M. Coombe, Esq., Clapham-common; the Rev. Dr. Hurndall, Head Master; or the Rev. Thomas Rees, at the School.

PROFESSOR W. B. TODHUNTER, of Cheshunt College (M.A., Gold Medallist, &c.), RECEIVES into his house FOUR or FIVE PUPILS, who may be preparing for University or other Examinations. Mr. Todhunter will be happy to furnish particulars upon application.
—Hatton House, Cheshunt.

THE VALE ACADEMY, RAMSGATE.
THE PUPILS of this Establishment will RE-ASSEMBLE on TUESDAY, January 27.
A Prospectus may be had on application to Mr. JACKSON, the Principal.

DARWEN COTTAGE, WOODFORD, near London, on the borders of Epping Forest.—Miss LUCY DUFF RECEIVES YOUNG LADIES between the ages of Ten and Sixteen as PUPILS, to whom she imparts a thoroughly good English education, and, assisted by competent Masters, instruction in French, German, Music, and Drawing. Reference is kindly permitted to Rev. Dr. Spence, Lower Clapton; Rev. E. Delf, Coventry; Rev. G. B. Johnson, Edgaston; H. Mason, Esq., Sydenham; C. P. Mason, Esq., Denmark-hill; T. Eccles, Esq., Darwen, Blackburn; Mrs. E. Dawson, Huddersfield.

EDUCATION for respectable BOYS, Sixteen Guineas. No extras. Old established; near London. Kindest treatment; best food, without limit. Excellent references. Usual terms, 30l. A few will be taken as above after Christmas, simply to increase number.
Address, "Theta," 103, Chesapeake.

EDUCATION.—THE BROADWAY, UPPER PLAINSTOW, LONDON.
The MISSES SMITH inform their friends that their VACATION will END on SATURDAY, January 24, when they hope to meet their returning Pupils, also to FILL UP a few VACANCIES. Terms and references on application.
An ARTICLED PUPIL is required.

EDUCATION.—SOUTH COAST.—HEATHFIELD HOUSE, PARKSTONE, midway between Poole and Bournemouth.
This Establishment, conducted by Rev. WALTER GILL, with the aid of competent Masters, is intended to RE-OPEN on THURSDAY, January 29th, 1863.
Terms, which are moderate, on application to the Principal.

EDUCATION for Respectable BOYS at an OLD ESTABLISHED SCHOOL in KENT. Terms, 20 guineas per annum inclusive of Laundry.
A Juvenile Department, where Young Children of either sex can be trained with the Advertiser's little daughters, at 18 guineas per annum.
Apply to Mr. G. Atkins, Anglessea House, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

CLASSICAL SCHOOL, SPALDING.—Established in 1819 by the Rev. PERCY STRUTT, PRINCIPAL—Mr. JOHN S. BARKER, B.A., University of London.

The Course of Study comprises the subjects required for the matriculation of the University of London, and the Oxford and Cambridge Middle Class Examinations. For terms, &c., apply to the Principal.
The School will RE-OPEN on TUESDAY, Jan. 27, 1863.

HIGHGATE, N., SOUTH GROVE.—The Misses SWALLOW will be happy to RECEIVE a few additional Pupils. Terms forwarded on application.
References kindly permitted to Mrs. Hall Norwood (late of Chesham); Miss Marshall, Bank of England; Rev. J. Viney, Highgate; Rev. B. Kent, Norwood; Rev. H. Allen, Islington; Rev. E. C. Lewis, Rochdale; Rev. G. W. Conder, Leeds; Wm. Beau, Esq., Hull.
January, 1863.

HIGHGATE.—MRS. and the MISSSES GOSBELL RECEIVE YOUNG GENTLEMEN for BOARD and PREPARATORY EDUCATION, at WOODLANDS, NORTH-HILL, HIGHGATE. A happy home, together with a thorough English education (based on Christian principles), including Latin, German, French, Music, Singing, and Drawing. The highest references given. A prospectus will be forwarded on application. Little boys, whose parents are abroad, can be received to remain during the holidays.

HOME EDUCATION, No. 88, THOMAS-STREET, WEYMOUTH.—The Rev. HARDWICK SMITH, B.A., RECEIVES TWELVE YOUNG GENTLEMEN as BOARDERS. The Course of Instruction is so arranged that the Pupils may pass, at the proper ages, the Oxford Local Examinations, if it is deemed desirable for them to do so. This School combines many advantages. Terms, Thirty-five Guineas. Full particulars may be obtained on application.

HOME EDUCATION, No. 16, THOMAS-STREET, WEYMOUTH.—Miss SMITH (daughter of the Rev. J. T. Smith, late of Weymouth) RECEIVES SIXTEEN YOUNG LADIES as BOARDERS. The Course of Instruction includes the several branches of a liberal English education, Instrumental and Vocal Music, with Drawing, in various styles. The French language and literature are taught by a resident Protestant French Lady. This School, which has been conducted by Miss Smith during the last fourteen years, combines many advantages. Terms, Thirty-five Guineas. Full particulars may be obtained on application.

BLANDFORD ACADEMY.—A sound, Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education is imparted at this Institution. The pleasantness and salubrity of the neighbourhood, combined with the greatest attention to domestic comfort, render the above a most desirable scholastic establishment.
The Pupils will RE-ASSEMBLE JAN. 20, 1863.
Terms and references on application to the Principal, Mr. J. Bailey, Blandford, Dorset.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL, No. 120, HAGLEY-ROAD, EDGBASTON, near BIRMINGHAM (removed from Guildford House). Conducted by Mr. F. EWEN, with the aid of experienced and competent Masters.
The course of instruction is adapted to prepare for the University Examinations, and for the requirements of business. The situation is first-rate. The schoolroom and dormitories have been recently erected under the immediate superintendence of the Principal. They are lofty, spacious, and well-ventilated.
School will RE-OPEN on TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1863.

IN THE UPPER and MIDDLE SCHOOLS, ONE PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E. (Private), every Pupil as far as possible well grounded in English, made to write and sit for business, and trained to be quick at accounts. French and German are taught by native masters, and spoken in the Principal. The Institutions of the metropolis for Science, Art, as well as the various Museums and Exhibitions, are frequently visited for educational purposes. Peckham Common is near, the school premises are large, and general accommodation for Boarders is superior. Terms moderate, and strictly inclusive. RE-OPENS JANUARY 20, 1863.
JOHN YEATS, LL.D.



WEST OF ENGLAND DISSENTERS' PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, TAUNTON.

PRINCIPAL—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A.
The VACATION will END on FRIDAY, January 23.
Prospectuses may be obtained by application to the Principal,
or to the Secretary, Rev. J. S. Underwood, Taunton.

**MILFORD HOUSE PREPARATORY
SCHOOL, WELLINGTON-ROAD, BRIGHTON.**
Mrs. W. G. BARRETT has removed her Preparatory School
for Boys to Brighton, where she will endeavour to unite the
comfort of home with the discipline of school. The highest
references given. Terms 25 and 40 guineas per annum.
School will RE-OPEN JANUARY 24th, 1863.

THE WALLANDS, near LEWES, SUSSEX.

The Rev. T. E. FULLER RECEIVES into his Family a
FEW PUPILS. The course of study includes the usual
branches of a Classical and Mercantile Education. Pupils
prepared for Matriculation at the London University, or for
the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations.
The house is in one of the most healthy situations on the
South Downs, and is within seven miles of the sea.

WESTBOURNE-ROAD ACADEMY, FOREST-HILL, KENT.

PRINCIPAL—Mr. T. G. HIBBS.
Young Gentlemen carefully trained in Literary, Mercantile,
and Professional Studies, with liberal domestic arrangements
and constant attention to physical and moral progress. In-
clusive Terms, from Thirty Guineas. Prospectuses on appli-
cation. The Christmas Vacation will terminate on the 20th
January, 1863.

EDUCATION in SCARBOROUGH.— HADDO-TERRACE SCHOOL.

PRINCIPAL—The Rev. G. D. BARTLET, A.M., assisted by
Two Resident Masters.

The system of education the same as that adopted in the
best schools in Edinburgh—having for its special aim
thoroughness in what is taught, and the preparation of pupils
either for commercial spheres or entering any of the Univer-
sities.

References—The Revs. R. Bagnall, Scarborough; J. Par-
sons, York; R. Bruce, M.A., Huddersfield; E. R. Conder,
M.A., Leeds; John Eadie, D.D., LL.D., Glasgow.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.—PREPARATORY SCHOOL for YOUNG GENTLEMEN.

The Misses A. and S. MABBS having taken the School con-
ducted by the late Miss Emma Mabbs, at Billericay, have
removed it to Brentwood, as being a very healthy town, and
a more accessible situation, within eighteen miles of London.
They have secured a commodious, detached House, with large
garden, conveniently situated for the railway.

SCHOOL will OPEN on THURSDAY, January 15.

Terms on application.

References:—E. Miall, Esq., The Firs, Norwood; Mrs.
Cooper, Wanstead House, Cambridge.

NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.

PRINCIPAL—The Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

The above School receives, in addition to the Sons of
Ministers and Missionaries, a limited number of Sons of Lay-
men, who are carefully instructed in all the branches of a
sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education,
and are prepared for any department of business, or for
entrance at the Universities.

The Terms for the Sons of Laymen are Thirty Guineas per
annum.

The School will RE-OPEN after the Christmas Vacation,
WEDNESDAY, January 14, 1863.

Applications for the Admission of Pupils to be addressed at
the Principal.

CLAPHAM-PARK SCHOOL, SURREY.—

MR. LONG'S PUPILS continue to gain high places in
the Public Examinations. At the College of Preceptors this
Christmas (among the many London Schools examined) the
first and second places in the grand total of marks are both
held by them. One has again taken the (only) Classical prize,
being first in both Greek and in Latin, as well as in French
and English History. Another stands second of all in Greek
and in Latin, besides other special certificates. Some were in
honours also at the Oxford Examination.

Mr. Long can unhesitatingly assure Parents as to the highest
moral and intellectual advantages, with domestic care and
comfort. Terms inclusive, and graduated by age. Number
of Pupils moderate.

SHIRELAND HALL, BIRMINGHAM.

The COMMITTEE of the BIRMINGHAM SCHOLASTIC
INSTITUTION place the SONS of MINISTERS, whom they
receive, in the

REV. T. H. MORGAN'S SCHOOL,

where the Sons of Laymen are also Educated.

For particulars respecting Ministers' Sons, application should
be made to the Secretary of the Institution, the Rev. R. A.
Davies, Shrewsbury.

Information about other Pupils may be obtained from
the Principal, at Shireland Hall.

Twenty of Mr. Morgan's Pupils have passed the Oxford Ex-
amination.

School will RECOMMENCE on the 30th inst.

SYDENHAM — PERRY - HILL HOUSE SEMINARY.

PRINCIPAL—Mrs. J. W. TODD.

The arrangements of this Establishment embrace all the
means of an accomplished Education, including thorough
instruction in English, French, German, Italian, Music, Draw-
ing, Natural and Moral Science, Biblical Literature, &c. The
Senior Classes are conducted on the Collegiate System. Every
attention is paid to Home Comfort, and to the culture of
Domestic Habits.

Besides the aid of efficient Resident Governesses, the follow-
ing Professors attend:—

MUSIC.—Pianoforte, Theory, and Thoro-Bass. John Block-
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THIS is one of the most complete Establishments in England for the reception of Patients and
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PARENTS who require for their SONS a
SOUND, COMMERCIAL EDUCATION, with or with-
out French, Piano, and Latin, are respectfully requested to
apply to Mr. GEO. VERNY, of CRANFORD HALL
SCHOOL, near Hounslow, Middlesex. The premises are first-
class. Food and conveniences of the best description. Terms
moderate. References in town and country.

The SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 20, 1863.

HANBURY HOUSE LADIES' SCHOOL, TEWKESBURY.

The Misses FRANCES and WEST, having taken the above
Establishment, beg to assure their Friends and the Public that
the same system of liberal Education, combined with the most
careful moral culture, pursued by Mrs. Hewett, will be
continued by them with increased facilities and advan-
tages. The well-known character of the School, and the
peculiarly healthy situation of the house and neighbourhood,
enable Misses Frances and West to ask for the continued
patronage of their Friends with the greatest confidence.

References kindly permitted by the following gentlemen:—
The Rev. H. Wilford, and Rev. T. Wilkinson, Tewkes-
bury; the Rev. W. Upton, St. Albans; Mr. T. Luck-
man, Bath; the Rev. D. Waseell, Bath; the Rev. W. H.
Wylie, Ramsey; the Rev. G. West, Buckingham; Mr. W. E.
Beal, Walsworth.

Pupils will RE-ASSEMBLE JANUARY 21st.

POLYTECHNIC.—CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAYS.—The Second Season of the Polytechnic
Optical Pantomimes will commence with "Harlequin and
Cinderella; or, The Little Glass Slipper." The Story will be
orally and musically told by George Buckland, Esq., and the
optical resources of the Institution will be used to give effect
to the Fairy Transformations. New Philosophical Entertain-
ment, by Professor J. H. Pepper, entitled "A Strange Lec-
ture," in which the "Photodrome," by Mr. Rose, of Glasgow,
and an illustration of Mr. Charles Dickens's "Haunted Man"
(being an optical illusion devised by Mr. Dirks), will be intro-
duced. Ventriloquism by Mr. Devon. Mr. Matthew's new
repertory of conjuring curiosities. Mr. King's Lectures. The
Giant Xmas Tree. Second Juvenile Day, and gratuitous distri-
bution of Ornaments, Toys, &c., on Thursday morning and
evening, the 8th January.

SAUCE.—LEA AND PERRINS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

This delicious Condiment, pronounced by Connoisseurs

"THE ONLY GOOD SAUCE."

Is prepared solely by LEA AND PERRINS.

The Public are respectfully cautioned against worthless imita-
tions, and should see that LEA and PERRINS' Names are on
Wrapper, Label, Bottle, and Stopper.

ASK FOR LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE.

Sold Wholesale and for Export, by the Proprietors,
Worcester; Messrs. CROSBY and BLACKWELL; Messrs. Barclay
and Sons, London, &c., &c., and by Grocers and Oilmen
universally.

MONEY.—£330,000 to be ADVANCED

upon MORTGAGE in various Sums. Freeholds
averaging from Three to Four per cent., according to the
amount required. Leaseholds, Four-and-a-half to Five per
cent. Also some smaller sums to be lent upon personal or any
other tangible securities.

Apply, by letter only, in the first instance, to Reginald
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IMMEDIATE CASH ADVANCES.—Money

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SUMS from 10l. to ADVANCED two or three days
after application, for 12c. years, one year, and six months (re-
payable by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments), and
good bills discounted. Charges moderate, and strict confidence
observed.

LONDON and PROVINCIAL LOAN COMPANY: Office,
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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXIII.—NEW SERIES, No. 897.]

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ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

ANOTHER year—may it prove a happy one to all of you, kind friends!—another year has overtaken us, and bids us open a new volume of the *Nonconformist*. In obeying the injunction, our first duty, a most pleasant one, moreover, is to present to you our heartiest thanks for the past, and to renew our engagements for the future.

Nothing is harder than to make the pen express what the heart feels when it brims over with grateful emotions. Perhaps, however, did we, conscious of the difficulty, seek to evade it by silence, that which would be truly attributable to the depth and strength of our feelings might be regarded by some as a sign of insensibility. And yet, which of you can doubt that the year 1862 will ever be memorable to us—memorable on many accounts, but chiefly because it disclosed to us the glow of heart with which you were pleased to appreciate our past labours? The chord which was then struck still vibrates—the encouragement then given will never cease to cheer us—we have felt its inspiring influence through the year—it has awakened in us a fresher and, if possible, an intenser interest in the enterprise to which we committed ourselves two-and-twenty years ago—and it has added force to the motives which urge us to an unswerving continuance in the course which we then marked out for ourselves. Accept, kind friends, the renewal of our thanks!

The year just closed has also proved an auspicious one for the *Nonconformist*. If we do not misinterpret the facts which have come under our notice, we have reason to be grateful for an increase of favour which it has been the lot of our journal to attract towards itself—an increase which we set down chiefly to the gradual expansion of the circle within which the principles we illustrate and enforce are accepted as true. The Bicentenary Commemoration, if it have not actually widened that circle, has, doubtless, quickened in it a more abundant and energetic life—and the *Nonconformist* has fully shared with those of its contemporaries who ably support the same principles, the benefit arising out of the increased enlightenment and fervour of public opinion. We have endeavoured to make our readers participate in our gain—to raise the paper, to the full extent of our ability, and in all its external as well as internal characteristics, to a level with the patronage it enjoys—and we confidently trust that our determination to return to our friends, in the improvement of this journal, the whole increase of the support it obtains, will, as to the year now gone, have already become obvious, and, as to that upon

which we have entered, be zealously acted upon. We best please ourselves when we can best please and most largely profit our readers. We hope we know something of the experience indicated by the Divine maxim, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The year 1863 opens somewhat ominously. We may guess at what will be its drift, although we are utterly unable to foresee its events. There can be little room for doubt that they who hold and value the special truths maintained by the *Nonconformist* will find their courage, their firmness, and their fidelity put to a severer test than heretofore. They have left behind them the plains, and are now entering upon the mountainous region of their enterprise. They will need for what lies before them a clear head, a quick eye, steady nerves, and unflinching powers of endurance. Nothing will yield us higher satisfaction than their permission to be at their side in all coming emergencies—to take counsel with them, to help in the removal of obstructions, to guide where guidance is necessary, to take our part in whatever disrepute they may have to bear, to identify ourselves with them so far as they may identify themselves with the glorious truths to which they and we alike bear allegiance and desire to do homage. If, during the year, we may aid in any appreciable way to nerve them for conflict, to rouse them in prospect of it, to sustain them during its progress, to soothe them under its pressure, to keep up heart and hope, we shall esteem it our greatest privilege. Once more we proffer such service as we can give in any of these respects—glad to be able to work off some slight portion of our indebtedness by doing our best for what our readers most care for. So far as we fall short of what is to be desired, our shortcoming must be imputed to want of ability, not of will.

Cheerily forwards, then, kind readers—cheerily forwards along the narrow path of duty into the misty future! Arduous times may be before us—but with honest motives, a noble cause, and a Master who never forsakes them that serve him, we may well smile at threatening appearances, and, in the exercise of goodwill and faith, wish one another "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DENOMINATIONAL UNION.

TOWARDS the close of last year, two or three faint indications presented themselves of an incipient desire, on the part of a small but highly respectable minority of Nonconformists, to obliterate, as far as possible, those lines of distinction which divide men, holding the same substantial tenets of faith, into separate denominations. We cannot, perhaps, open the year 1863, following as it does upon the Bicentenary Commemoration, more appropriately than by turning the thoughts of our readers in this direction. During the last five or six years we have observed with pain what has appeared to us an increased tendency to base the organised action which the impulses of Christian faith and feeling urge men to bring to bear upon society for its amelioration, upon an almost exclusively sectarian foundation. We hope and believe that there has been no sensible growth of the sectarian spirit. There has been, we think, no especial reluctance on the part of members of one denomination to recognise those of another as belonging to the brotherhood of saints, to commune with them as such, or to interchange with them

friendly offices. But it seems to have been considered expedient for each division of the Christian family in England to do all its philanthropic and religious work by purely denominational machinery, too often, moreover, without mutual consultation, and occasionally, we fear, in a spirit verging more closely upon antagonism than upon healthy emulation—and thereby, we are convinced, economy in works of usefulness has been largely sacrificed. If there be, as we think there is, a turn of the tide towards union, we hail it with eager expectation—and no effort of our own during the present year will be put forth with greater satisfaction than such as may contribute in any measure to bring the more prominent Nonconforming communities into actual combination.

At the very outset, however, we deem it necessary to guard ourselves against the possibility of being misunderstood. The union we look upon as feasible is not organic. We have our doubts whether any great religious end would be promoted by the formal incorporation into one large and powerful denomination of several smaller ones. We do not wish all the free churches of this land to be subject to the same code of discipline, to recognise the same laws, to adopt the same methods of procedure, or to come under the same all-pervading authority. We should regret, rather than rejoice in, the entire suppression of whatever is peculiar to each denomination, or such an amalgamation or scheme of comprehension, were it ever so practicable, as would eliminate religious differences. The union which we are most anxious to see and to promote, at least for the present, is rather one of purpose, plan, and action than of organic constitution—one of close alliance rather than of incorporation. What we mean, however, will be better explained, perhaps, by illustration than by definition. Suppose, for example, a town containing say 10,000 inhabitants. Suppose there is in it a separate Baptist church and congregation, an Independent, a Presbyterian, and a Methodist. For all purposes of religious self-culture they are perhaps better as distinct bodies than they would be if fused into one—with this proviso, however, that they regard themselves and each other not as separate "interests," but as parts of the same body—regiments, so to speak, in different uniforms, but all acting with one object in view—local States, having their own independent organisation and laws, but parts of a Confederation throughout which whatever may be done in common falls under a federal arrangement to be so done. Thus much with regard to that part of their work which has respect to self-culture. The degree of union by which we suppose them to be held together is, perhaps, little more than is already partially professed, and, under peculiarly happy auspices, acted upon.

But in respect of that part of their work which is aggressive, and which is meant to evangelise the town and district wherein they are located, might they not be one body in a far more important sense? Might they not operate under one council—agree together upon the work to be attempted—map out the ground and allot to each church its distinct sphere of agency—discourage mere denominational competition, especially in the erection of rival places of worship—employ the same machinery for the visitation of the sick, the relief of distress, the distribution of tracts, the holding of religious meetings in the houses of the poor, the support and management of schools, and almost all the other methods by which churches are wont to operate upon the ignorance, frivolity, and sin by which they may chance to be surrounded? For all external action, might they not, in process of time, come to regard themselves, and to be regarded by others, as the Christian church of that town? Nay, might not a habit of united action gradually wear away the sharp edges of denominational sentiment, and a gradual unity of belief and practice evolve itself, not out of a suppression of differences, but from that more perfect understanding and appreciation of each other's peculi-

arities which usually follow upon hearty co-operation in works of practical usefulness?

We have confined our illustration to comparatively narrow limits—but only for the purpose of illustration. It would be easy enough, on paper, to expand it so that it might be co-extensive with counties, and, ultimately, with the United Kingdom and its colonies. Our belief is that any such union must work from below upwards—from particular churches to the general church—from the extremities to the centre. This is our own conviction—but we shall be far more glad than sorry to be proved by events to be mistaken. We cherish no Utopian expectations—our first duty seems to be most fitly set forth in Apostolic language. "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us abide by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." Carrying out this principle to its legitimate issue, we may confidently rely upon the assurance that, "if, in anything, we be otherwise (or diversely) minded, God will reveal even this unto us."

And now, having indicated the end at which our aims may be properly directed, and, as we think, with special propriety during the year upon which we have entered, we earnestly invite the freest possible interchange of thought upon the subject, by means of correspondence through our columns. We cannot engage to insert every communication that may be sent us bearing upon this point—but we do pledge ourselves to exercise our editorial discretion with the utmost impartiality. We are most anxious that the close of the year should find us nearer together than we have been—with the lines of sectarianism which divide us softened, if not effaced. True union, we are fully aware, must be a growth, not a manufacture—but the difficulties supposed to be in the way of true union may be incalculably lessened by a frank collation of one another's thoughts, and a cordial manifestation of one another's feelings. It is in this hope that we offer our columns as a medium of weekly inter-communion on the subject.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE ecclesiastical memorial to the directors of the metropolitan railway companies, entreating them to abolish the system of Sunday excursion trains, has provoked an amount of adverse criticism which does not augur very favourably for the success of the memorialists. The question is acknowledged by most of the critics to be a difficult one, but it is unreservedly maintained that ecclesiastics are the last persons who should attempt its solution in the manner that has been proposed. Gathering up, as carefully as we can, the arguments that have been put forth during the past week, we find the objections to the proposition to relate mainly to the condition of the working classes. It is urged that the Sunday excursions increase their health, their pleasures, and their morality. That they secure the two former purposes will scarcely, perhaps, be doubted; and we can see how it is very probable that in many cases they may secure the latter purpose also. It is, indeed, broadly stated, by those who are intimate with the habits of the working classes, that the excursions keep many a man from the beerhouse and the dramshop. Of all difficulties which a working man has, one of the greatest is to know what to do with his Sunday. The answer to this is—go to church or chapel. It is at this point that the critics turn upon the ecclesiastics. We put the argument as it is put in the *Spectator* newspaper:—

We have no hesitation in saying that the Sunday walk by the sea may be an infinitely better spiritual education for many of the working men than the service in many a church or chapel. The fault, it will be said, lies with the clergyman, where it is so. But it is an unfortunate fact that the fault does often lie with the clergyman; and the sooner going to church for what is called the "sake of example" ends, the better;—we believe it has caused more real unbelief than any other of the deadening habits called religious. For our own parts, we believe in the power of Christ, not only to engender individual faith, but to draw men together in social prayer. But we utterly disbelieve in any good derived from obstructing men's other desires, in order to make church the *dernier resort* of a lifeless Sunday. If the bishops can do no more than this to kindle the spiritual desire for social worship, they would do well to be silent altogether. The preference for holiday-making is much more due to the deadness of the clergy than to the "temptations" of the country or the sea.

The *Saturday Review* takes a similar view of the matter, but carries the war still further, and with still more vigour, into the ecclesiastical camp. After enlarging upon the number of worldly qualities which are vided for the working classes, and declaiming against the policy which seeks to drive the working man to church by man must possess in order to get appointed to a bishopric, satirizing the style of religious literature pro—"hemming him in on all sides, cutting off from him first one way of escape and then another, just as people drive a pig into a field—hoping that at last in his despair he will take to his religious duties out of sheer ennui," the *Saturday* thus smartly attacks the bishops:—

In the matter of "depriving servants of the weekly day of rest," the excursionists are venial sinners compared to the bishops themselves. If we were to say that ten excursionists give employment to one railway official during two or three hours of the day, we should pro-

bably be speaking very much over the mark. A bishop, on the other hand, employs all to himself, for the same number of hours on a Sunday, at least one housemaid, one butler, and one cook, and probably several other servants besides. No doubt the bishop would reply that these things are necessities. It is one of the most striking features of the Sabbatarian dispensation, that all the comforts of the rich are necessities, and all the comforts of the poor are sinful luxuries. But it is not really necessary for a bishop either to have his rooms cleaned on a Sunday, or to eat freshly-cooked food, or to be waited on at dinner. He might eat his three meals out of the kitchen cupboard, and forbid his housemaid to do any work, with far less loss either of health or comfort than the working man incurs by sacrificing "the relaxation which he needs." It is to be presumed that housemaids and cooks, equally with railway porters, are to be looked upon as "accountable beings with eternity in view." Yet the bishops feel no twinges of conscience at "depriving them of their weekly rest." When we hear that the Episcopal Bench have unanimously resolved to leave their servants entirely to "their religious duties" upon Sundays, and are content themselves to live during the whole day upon sandwiches cut over night, we shall begin to believe that this outburst of bigotry has been inspired by something else than a desire to stand well with the religious world.

Our readers are not likely to suppose us to be indifferent to the absolute necessity of the day of rest and worship to the man who desires to keep his soul in health; but it is very possible to set forth the claims of this day in such a manner and by such methods that men will hate rather than love it. The Sabbath is a merciful institution, and we should take care not to make it, in any manner, a day of punishment. We deplore, as much as the bishops, the fact that it is not more highly prized, but it strikes us that their lordships have not gone the right way to work to make it so. They have begun at the wrong end. They should have dealt first with the working classes, not with the companies. The difficulty in this question lies deeper than the system of excursion trains. Like their forefathers who endeavoured to stop the progress of Dissent by compelling, with the terrors of fine and imprisonment, attendance at Church instead of at conventicle, they have attacked a symptom instead of the disease. We agree with the caustic writer of the *Saturday*, that it is especially unfortunate that they should have led this attack. Before any man can hope to gain over others to a certain observance of the Sabbath he must observe it with rigid and inflexible consistency himself.

Church clergymen are appealing for special assistance to distressed Churchmen in Lancashire. Let us say, in order not to be misunderstood, that there can be no question that many of those appeals are made from the very best motives; but when we read the Rev. Mr. Grant, incumbent of Norden, Rochdale, writing to the *Guardian* that he desires, "once for all, to impress upon the minds of 'Church-people,' that if they value the ministrations of the Church themselves, and wish to exalt and raise her to her proper position, now is the golden opportunity," we cannot help saying what we should say, with equal freedom, if we saw a Nonconformist minister writing in the same strain, that his efforts at proselytism are to be deprecated. We are afraid that there will soon be an unpleasant controversy on this subject in the northern towns. The matter has been again obstinately but unsuccessfully forced on the Wigan Committee, while in Ashton a "Church-defender" is moving every influence to obtain special help from the Central Committee for his special people. On the other hand there are proofs that denominational assistance has been of untold service to a certain class. The incumbent of Oldham writes that, "the sums of money and the bales of clothes which have been sent to Dissenting ministers in Oldham are enormous. They have been enabled to clothe and to feed the most respectable of their workpeople, without going to the relief fund at all." It is this class who would have suffered far more than others without such assistance.

We have read a good deal of the history of the Book of Common Prayer, but the Archbishop of Canterbury has supplied a chapter which has certainly been missing in every chronicle which we have ever had occasion to consult. We are told, in a sermon preached by the Archbishop at Dartford in the course of last week, that "England derives its Book of Common Prayer from Ephesus antecedent to the days of Augustine, and that for the first fourteen centuries, without exception, the churches used forms of prayer." This is a discovery in ecclesiastical literature which ought to hand down its author's name to all posterity. When, where, how did the Archbishop make it? Has he found the original of the book in Greek, with a genuine and indubitable certificate that it was used by the Church at Ephesus, say, when Paul preached there? What have Church scholars been about, that they have until now missed these remarkable discoveries?

We have written, in another column, on the subject of Christian union. May we direct the reader's attention to an admirable article relating to this matter, but specifically dealing with Nonconformist Church Finance, in the *Christian Spectator* for this month? This magazine is breaking up anew the ground that it ploughed some few years ago, and is doing it with great effectiveness. Healthy and friendly criticism, such as occurs in this and some preceding papers by the same writer, is as needful to us as it is to others, and it is better that it should be done by one of ourselves than by "an enemy." We are just as much in danger as Churchmen of allow-

ing forms to survive the thought and feeling which they once assisted as well as represented. Happy is that Church which hath, and will hear, the words of a loving and faithful rebuke!

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS.

From the "Congregational Year Book" for 1863, just published, we extract the following statistics:—

NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.	
In England ...	1,840
In Wales ...	719
In Scotland ...	101
In Ireland ...	27
Total in Great Britain and Ireland ...	2,687
In the Colonies—	
The Canadas ...	87
Other British North American Provinces ...	16
British Columbia ...	1
Australasia ...	125
South Africa ...	9
Demerara ...	3
—	241
In connexion with the London Missionary Society ...	203

3,131

This total does not include the village chapels, out-stations, school-houses, and other places in connexion with the churches. The number of these is not reported, but may be roughly estimated at twice the number of the churches themselves, making a total of at least 10,000 places where the Gospel is proclaimed by Congregational ministers and helpers.

NUMBER OF CHURCHES VACANT.

In England ...	184
In Wales ...	78
In Scotland ...	13
In Ireland ...	5
In Colonies ...	16

196

NUMBER OF CHURCH-MEMBERS.

Only an approximate number can be given, from which a general average may be calculated.

The number of returns sought from the 2,678 churches in Great Britain and Ireland was only 759, giving the total amount of membership in those 759 churches as 96,754; making an average of more than 127 members to each church. It may be doubted whether this gives a sufficient average, taking all the churches in the British Empire, especially as many of the largest churches in the denomination have made no returns.

NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS.

In England ...	1,702
In Wales ...	350
In Scotland ...	101
In Ireland ...	27
In Colonies ...	202
In Heathen lands ...	154

2,536

Of the 462 without pastorships, 60 are officially engaged as tutors in colleges, secretaries of public institutions, &c.; about 130 are superannuated; many others are temporarily laid aside by indisposition; and the remainder are engaged more or less in occasional labours in their respective neighbourhoods.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOR THE MINISTRY IN COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES.

In England ...	294
In Wales ...	90
In Scotland ...	18
In Colonies ...	23

425

This number includes all the students preparing for the ministry in the Congregational body, for home, colonial, and foreign service.

A SCRIPTURAL DEFENCE OF AMERICAN SLAVERY.

The following extract from a leader in yesterday's *Times* shows that an English newspaper deems it safe and seemly to adopt the creed of the new Slave Power:—

In the New Testament we have an Epistle written by the man who represents the last revealed phase and development of the Gospel, sent by the hand of a runaway slave, who had sought a refuge with the writer, to his lawful master, to the purport that the master and his slave were to get on better, and do their duty to one another more thoroughly for the future. The same writer tells his recent converts that if they are slaves they must make the best of that condition, and not try to escape it, at least by any means contrary to the laws of the country. The only possible doubt about the exact meaning of his advice is, whether slaves are to refuse their liberty, even if it be offered; or whether they are merely to remain true to their masters, even if chance presents the opportunity of escape. The context which says that a faithful and dutiful Christian slave becomes the freedman of his Heavenly Master clearly proves that a slave who refuses the offer of freedom has a high Scriptural argument for his choice. If it be said that slavery is at variance with the spirit of the Gospel, so also are a good many things which are not yet laid under the ban of Abolition, or threatened with the "War Power." Sumptuous fare, purple and fine linen, wealth, ecclesiastical titles, unmarried clergy, good clerical incomes, and many other things, are contrary to the spirit of the Gospel, or, at least, can be proved so as easily as slavery. But the Roman Catholics have just as much to say for any one of their peculiar doctrines as the Abolitionists have for their one article of *Dystanding* or falling community. Whether the Confederates have done right to throw off the Union is a distinct question, but they cannot have a better defence than a proclamation of war to the knife, a solemn invocation of the "War Power" against every slaveowner who still claims the duty of his slave.

FAITH AND FIGURES.

The following clever *jeu d'esprit* is sent by "H." to

the *Guardian* under the title of "Ten Weeks in Natal Critically Examined":—

Sir,—1. A few years ago a book purporting to be by Dr. Colenso was published under this title, and was valued as an interesting and useful work by a large number of readers who supposed it to be a genuine narrative of facts.

2. I shall now proceed to show, by means of a number of prominent instances, that the book contains such remarkable contradictions, and involves such plain impossibilities, that it cannot be regarded as a true narrative of actual historical matters of fact. I need at present examine but a few of the earlier pages to prove this.

3. The writer says: "My intention was to visit different parts of the district and make acquaintance with the inhabitants of all classes, Christian and heathen, whether resident in European towns, villages, or farm-houses, or collected in Kafir kraals"; and he calculates that the whole might be done effectually within three months. Now, he admits that the country in extent is 18,000 square miles—about a third of England and Wales.

4. It is certain that to make acquaintance with people of different tongues scattered over a country destitute of railways and roads would occupy much longer time than in the case of an English district of the same extent. But could this be done even in England? The Bishop of Salisbury is an active bishop, but has been able in nearly nine years to make acquaintance with all the inhabitants of his diocese, consisting of 2,046 square miles? Not with a tenth part of them. The mere travelling distance for close inspection over 18,000 square miles would amount to some 3,600 miles; it is simply incredible that the writer could calculate to do this effectually in three months.

5. He begins with stating: "I sailed in company with the Bishop of Capetown and Mrs. Gray"; and at page 2 he writes, "We dropped anchor in Table Bay." There is no mention made of any other persons or of any machinery by which this might be done; nor any claim of miraculous power. I assume, then, that it is absolutely undeniable that the narrative distinctly involves the statement that three persons, two men and one woman and no others, did raise and heave into the sea an anchor which I suppose could weigh not less than ten or fifteen hundredweight.

6. Along the east coast of Africa "a current runs (as we are told) at the rate of three or four miles an hour." Take the mean of three and a half miles, and this would give eighty-four miles in a day; but he presently informs us that, though steaming with might and main, the aforesaid current carried us backward 100 miles. How is it conceivable that, in spite of steam-power, it could have caused the steamer to retrograde faster than its own flow? And the singular result of this lengthened voyage with its 100 miles of retrograding is that they took the people of Durban (their destination) by surprise, and caused actual inconvenience by the steamer arriving a week or ten days before it was expected.

7. On landing he is met by one of the churchwardens, but at page one he informs us that there is not a single church, chapel, or school erected in the district. Was it, then, the churchwarden of a church to be erected? No; the narrative puts that explanation out of the question by adding that the Bishop's letter had been read in the church on the day previous.

8. In Durban we are told that the streets, which are of considerable width, and the market-square, are covered a foot deep with white sand. Putting aside the just incredulity with which a simple-minded native of the Fens would hear this statement, let us examine the incredible assertion gravely made with regard to this sand. Let us first premise that these wide streets would not be less than thirty feet wide, and suppose them to be but half-a-mile in extent, and the market-place only sixty feet square, here would be 9,200 cubic yards of sand. "This quantity of sand," says the author, "is now in my eyes and mouth." How thankful we must be that (after this criticism) we are no longer obliged to believe that an Englishman sat down to write his journal with 9,200 cubic yards of white sand in his mouth and eyes!

9. The chronology, too, is obscure; in one sentence (page 14) we have the word now used twice, referring as to one and the same time, in February 2, 1854, and to January 1, 1855.

10. These difficulties I meet with in the first fourteen pages of the volume. I can but feel that this much is more than enough to show the unhistoric character of the book, and the groundlessness of that notion of its veracity and honesty with which so many (brought up, alas! in the school of simple trustfulness) have regarded it, and doubtless will regard it, until their attention shall be drawn to the facts which make such a view impossible for reflecting and inquiring minds.

DR. CULLEN'S REVIEW OF THE OLD YEAR.—Legate Cullen delivered a discourse in his cathedral at Dublin on Wednesday evening, in which he reviewed the old year from his Church's point of view. Among other things he gloried in the fall of Garibaldi, who, he said, "ignominiously defeated by a handful of soldiers, wounded and taken prisoner at Aspromonte, has lost all his prestige, and become an object of contempt even to those who puffed him up with their praises, and has retired into obscurity."

THE AFRICAN BISHOPS.—The new bishop of the Oxford and Cambridge mission to Central Africa (Mr. Tozer) is expected to leave England for his distant sphere of labours early this month. He will be accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Steere, rector of Little Steeping, and the Rev. Charles Augustine Alington, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford, rector of Musketon, near Louth. The Rev. Edward Twells, M.A., of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, incumbent of St. John's, Hammersmith, who has accepted the bishopric of the Free Orange States of South Africa, will leave England as early as circumstances will admit.

FRANCE AND ARMAGEDDON.—In the course of a Post report of Dr. Cumming's lecture on 1862, we read:—"France, there was reason for believing, was the centre of the great revolutionary force which was to bring on a war, the contending parties in which were to be gathered together at Armageddon. In the 16th chapter of the Book of Revelation they read, 'I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come

out of the mouth of the dragon.' What made him believe that the reference in the verse was to France? The old and real arms of France were three frogs? He could not, of course, demonstrate the truth of his opinion, but there were many coincidences in its favour, and but few divergencies against it."

A CONFORMIST.—The *Kentish Observer* says:—"Among the candidates admitted to holy orders on Sunday last, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was the Rev. Thomas Moore, who for many years was the officiating minister of the Independent Chapel in Margate. In consequence of a misunderstanding between himself and a portion of his flock, he some months ago resigned his appointment; since which, his views having changed, the result has been that he was admitted to deacon's orders, as above alluded to, and we understand that he has since accepted a curacy under the Rev. C. T. Astley, vicar. The old building, in which the Rev. T. Moore formerly officiated, was licensed last summer by the late Archbishop as a chapel-of-ease to the parish church."

MR. ALFRED SEYMOUR ON CHURCH-RATES.—At a meeting held at Totnes last week, the Liberal candidate for the seat, vacant in that borough by the death of the Earl of Gifford, said:—"When I view the question of Church-rates, and observe how very small is the amount which each parish is called upon to pay—that the amount being distributed through England and Wales, each parish contributes about the amount of one agricultural labourer's wages, or 10s. per week—I think that for the sake of maintaining so insignificant a rate, it is hardly worth while to keep up the constant bickering and discord which it stirs up between the Church of England and the Dissenting community. (Hear, hear.) I think that, in justice to the Dissenters, and in order to strengthen the Church of England, Church-rates should be abolished." (Cheers.)

DIOCESES AND BENEFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—The following is a list of the archbishops and bishops in England and Wales, with the number of benefices in each diocese:—

ARCHBISHOPS (2).			
Canterbury	352	Lichfield	536
York	534	Lincoln	795
BISHOPS (26).			
London	324	Llandaff	215
Durham	245	Manchester	350
Winchester	523	Norwich	910
Bangor	129	Oxford	584
Bath and Wells	462	Peterborough	538
Carlisle	261	Ripon	430
Chester	345	Rochester	564
Chichester	311	Salisbury	471
Ely	529	St. Asaph	148
Exeter	677	St. David's	42
Gloucester and Bristol	443	Worcester	417
Hereford	358	Sodor and Man	20
		11,513	

The total number of benefices in England and Wales is 11,728.

ILLEGAL CHURCH-RATE AT RICHMOND.—On Saturday, December 20, Dr. Foster attended as counsel at the Richmond petty sessions for Dr. Ellis, of Petersham, to show cause why he should not pay a Church-rate of 7l. 10s. upon his property in the parish. The vestry clerk refused to produce the estimate, alleging that he had "not had notice," and objected to Dr. Ellis's evidence being received on affirmation, being unaware, apparently, of the provisions in that behalf of the Common Law Procedure Act of 1854. Dr. Foster, however, succeeded in eliciting the admission that Dr. Ellis had demanded a poll on the estimate, and that the demand had been refused. Dr. Foster then handed up to the Bench the report of the recent case of *White v. Steele*, in the *Law Times*, and, after hearing the vestry clerk at considerable length, the Bench decided that the legality of the rate was *bona fide* disputed, and refused to order payment.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ASSUMPTIONS.—The imprisonment of the Rev. Patrick M'Laughlin, for refusing to give evidence before Mr. Kidston, in a case of felony at Glasgow, has given rise not only to legal proceedings for the purpose of securing his liberation, but to a long correspondence between the Catholic Bishop of Glasgow and the Home Secretary. The Bishop prayed the Home Secretary to sign an order for the liberation of the prisoner, but Sir George Grey, after receiving the report of the committing justice, declined to interfere. He says, "That were he to do so, without any instruction from Mr. M'Laughlin that he is convinced he was in error, or any assurance that he would not, in any similar case, adopt the same course, he should be giving his sanction to the assumption of a privilege by ministers of religion of every denomination, which he is advised they cannot legally claim, and which would tend, even in the most serious cases, to defeat the ends of justice."

MINISTERS' "OBOLATIONS" AT SOUTHAMPTON.—At the Guildhall, Southampton, on Wednesday, before Alderman Palk and W. Sharland, Esq., Mr. Alfred Pegler, jeweller, High-street, appeared in answer to an information charging him with having refused to pay the sum of 3l. 3s. 6d. for oblations due at Michaelmas last, to the Rev. Gibson Lucas, rector of St. Lawrence. Mr. Pegler shrewdly conducted his own case. After a long hearing, the Alderman dismissed the summons, in consequence of insufficient evidence of the nature of the demand. Mr. Lucas: You are perfectly aware, Mr. Pegler, that the proof is the easiest thing in the world, for I have only to call a witness. If you like to give me and yourself the trouble—Mr. Pegler: Oh, it is no trouble to me. (Laughter.) Mr. Lucas: I shall only have to issue new summonses. Mr. Pegler: It only exemplifies—Alderman Palk: Excuse me, sir, the case is disposed of. There were two or three other parties summoned for the non-

payment of similar dues, but in the absence of the proper proof the cases were not proceeded with. The parties then left the court.

THE POPE AND THE BIBLE.—Either the Pope, though infallible, clearly does not know his Bible, or Mr. Reuter is playing into the hands of the Bible Society, who will doubtless improve the occasion of Papal ignorance. The telegram yesterday positively informs us that his Holiness expressed, in a long speech, his conviction that "repentant Piedmont" (not Italy) "would fall at the feet of the chair of St. Peter, as Jacob prostrated himself before the angel, after having wrestled with him all night in ignorance of his origin." To ordinary interpreters it would seem that the Pope made a slip. Jacob, after compelling the angel to bless him, was addressed by him in these remarkable words, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." That we take to be a tolerably good omen for Italy; her name shall be no more Piedmont but Italy, for as a prince she has wrestled with both spiritual and secular powers, and has prevailed. How could the Pope make so unfortunate an allusion?—*Spectator*.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.—The committee of the Protestant Alliance have issued their address for 1863. Premising that the position and aims of the Papacy in England ought at this time to excite the deepest interest, not unmingled with alarm, the committee furnish statistics to show the great increase which has taken place since 1829 in the priesthood and in chapels, monasteries, convents, and colleges, as also in the Government grants to Roman Catholics for educational purposes. They then supply a summary of all State grants for Romish objects, showing that they amount to an annual outlay of 344,502l., which is thus made up:—Army Romish chaplains, 8,093l.; grants for Romish schools in Great Britain, 35,195l.; Romish reformatory schools in Great Britain, 15,154l.; Maynooth grant, 25,000l.; national schools in Ireland (proportionate part to Romanists), 205,000l.; Romish chaplains in Irish prisons and workhouses, 10,000l.; Romish reformatory schools in Ireland, 5,060l.; India and our colonies, 40,005l. The committee then allude to the attempts made by the Romanists in Parliament during the late session, several of which had been defeated by the Alliance, which, in the words of the address, "has for four years steadily resisted the encroachments of Popery"—a work in which they "earnestly invite the assistance of Christians of all denominations."

POOR-LAW CHAPLAINS AND HIGH-CHURCH ASSUMPTIONS.—A case of some importance, affecting the relations between the Poor-law Board and chaplains in unions, will be brought under the notice of the Court of Queen's Bench in the course of next term. Application will be made on the part of the Rev. J. W. H. Molyneux, incumbent of St. Gregory's and St. Peter's, Sudbury, for a writ of *certiorari*, for the purpose of quashing an order of the Poor-law Board, directing the removal of Mr. Molyneux from the chaplaincy of the Sudbury Union, and the appointment of a successor. The grounds of the application are:—1. That Mr. Molyneux, being chaplain of the union, was not a paid officer, removable at pleasure by the Poor-law Board. 2. That even assuming him to be so, the board had no power to remove him after his appointment had been sanctioned by the consent of the bishop of the diocese, without a revocation of such consent. 3. That the order purports to direct the guardians to appoint a fit and proper person to be chaplain of the Sudbury Union, and that the Poor-law Board have no power to order, nor have the guardians to appoint, any person to be chaplain of a union, unless the consent of the incumbent of the parish in which such workhouse be situated is first obtained, and that the order is bad for not averring such consent. For a long time past there have been differences between Mr. Molyneux and the guardians, and the latter having directed the attention of the Poor-law Board to the circumstances, an order went down for the election of another chaplain. The guardians elected the Rev. E. S. Bagshaw, and against that gentleman proceedings have been commenced by Mr. Molyneux in the Diocesan Court of Ely—to be hereafter removed by letters of request to the Court of Arches—for officiating in the workhouse chapel without the consent of the incumbent of the parish.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.—At a recent conference of the clergy and churchwardens of the archdeaconry of Buckingham, Archdeacon Bickersteth made the following references to the "Liberation Society":—"They knew that there was a very large and well-organised body in the country, which was formed nearly twenty years ago, under the name of the Anti-Church-and-State Society, but which within the last few years had changed its name and was now known as the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Control. That society was widely and powerfully organised throughout the country, and it proclaimed—and he honoured it for its honesty—that its great object was to destroy the Established Church of this country—to do away with the Church as a national establishment—to confiscate her revenues, and appropriate them to any other purpose which the nation may see fit. The Liberation Society was exercising a very potent influence throughout the country." At the same meeting Mr. Davies, Secretary to the Church Institute, also made similar references:—"The Anti-State-Church Association was formed about twenty years ago, and the members, or rather the executive, acted together by a system of organisation so complete and successful as to be almost incredible. In the House of Commons the number of members who

are Dissenters was only 6 per cent. of the whole House, and yet, nevertheless, the organisation was so complete throughout the country, that any measure brought into the House of Commons, either directly through that society or with their indirect sanction, invariably passed that House. . . . It was impossible for him to tell them the enormous power wielded by the Liberation Society. Its organisation was almost as perfect as organisation could be. At one time, if not now, its executive could put their finger upon 14,000 Dissenting chapels, and influence the people attending them. Their power was shown in the simple fact that they could force almost every bill they introduced through the House of Commons, notwithstanding that only six per cent. of the members of the House are Dissenters."

VIVA VOCE v. WRITTEN SERMONS.—The Free Presbytery of Edinburgh, at their meeting on Wednesday, adopted the following overture, moved by Dr. Begg:—"It is humbly overtured by the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh that the General Assembly shall adopt some effectual plan in connection with all our colleges, whereby all our theological students shall be trained in the art of delivering their sermons without reading." Rev. Sir H. W. Moncreiff moved as an amendment to add "and also in the art of delivering discourses effectively when the manuscript is used." But Dr. Begg's overture was carried by ten votes to nine. The best bit in the discussion occurs in the speech of Dr. Candlish, who said:—

He could be quite prepared to go this length as between the question of reading and not reading, as to say that every minister ought to be able to deliver a sermon without reading it. (Hear.) He had not the slightest hesitation in saying that. He, of course, was one of those unfortunate stigmatised individuals—(cries of "No, no")—who used paper, but he had this apology to make, that he could speak when the occasion required it without writing, and very energetically too. (Hear, hear.) The first charge he was in, the people had no objection to writing; but, in the second charge, it was not tolerated, so that he had been trained to both ways. He might mention that in his second charge the popular reason against writing was this, that it left no room for the "blast"—(laughter and applause)—though for his part he thought there was as much room for what was called the "blast" in the one way as the other. He had no hesitation in thinking that it was a great drawback in the case of any man who was so tied down to delivery from paper that he could not deliver effectively without the manuscript before him. (Hear, hear.) He did not, however, take the strong view which Dr. Begg took; and he would like the overture a great deal better if it took the general form that sermons should be effectively delivered, no matter whether they were read or not. (Hear, hear.) He would like the overture a great deal better if it was framed to the effect that students should be trained, during their trials through the Hall, in the art of effectively delivering their discourses, without saying anything about writing or otherwise."

Religious Intelligence.

LEICESTER.—A new Congregational chapel is about to be erected in Oxford-street, Leicester, from the design of Mr. H. Shenton, architect.

PLAISTOW.—The Rev. Joshua Wilson Coombs, B.A., late of Portobello, and of New College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to become co-pastor with the Rev. John Curwen, Plaistow.

THE SPECIAL PRAYER-MEETINGS.—The first of the series of central meetings in Freemasons' Hall was held on Monday morning. Sir Culling Eardley, Bart., presided, and delivered an introductory address.

THE REV. C. SCOTT, LL.B., minister of Newland Independent Chapel, Lincoln, having received a pressing invitation to become the pastor of Hanover Chapel, Stockport, announced to his congregation on Sunday last that, after mature deliberation, he had declined the offer, and would continue to minister to his present charge.

RAWDON COLLEGE.—At the committee meeting of this college, on Wednesday last, ten new students were admitted upon the funds of the institution, after passing through the term of probation to the satisfaction of the tutors. At the same meeting Dr. Acworth announced his intention to resign his office of president at the end of this session, an office which he has filled with honour to himself and with advantage to his denomination for a period of twenty-seven years. There was a large attendance at the committee meeting, and profound regret was expressed by all present at the prospect of losing the services of the rev. Doctor, who, should he fulfil his intention of resigning, will retire into private life with the affectionate regard of a large circle of friends.

ALDERHOLT CHAPEL, NEAR FORDINGBRIDGE.—On Tuesday, the 30th of December, a tea-meeting was held at the chapel at Alderholt, which has recently been erected by the friends in connexion with the Independent Chapel at Fordingbridge to meet the wants of an increasing Sunday-school, and to further Home Missionary efforts among the poor and scattered population of the district. The chapel, which will seat about 130 persons, was erected at a cost of 159*l.*, but on the day of the meeting a sum of 25*l.* remained unpaid. Suitable addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. H. Bassett, of Fordingbridge, the Rev. J. O. Jackson, of Ringwood, and others. The opportunity was taken for an earnest appeal to those present to assist in clearing off the debt, and an immediate response was made by subscribing the full amount. We have now much pleasure, therefore, in saying that the chapel is entirely free from debt.

DARWEN, LANCASHIRE.—**DUCKWORTH-STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.**—The annual Sunday-

school tea-meeting was held in the large school-room on the evening of New Year's Day. The room was elaborately decorated with festoons of evergreens and artificial flowers, appropriate mottoes, and figure portraits of Victoria, Albert, Milton, and Shakespeare. On the platform was a beautiful bower for the chairman, and over it in large letters the motto, "Kind actions deserve our gratitude." This was in allusion to the kind and liberal contributions for the relief of distress which had been received from distant friends through the pastor and his wife. More than a thousand partook of tea. After tea the chair was taken by the pastor, the Rev. Thos. Davies, and the evening was most agreeably and profitably occupied with addresses, recitations, and a selection of sacred music, performed by the choir with instrumental accompaniments.

THE REV. DR. RAFFLES.—This venerable and much-esteemed minister in connexion with the Congregational denomination on Sunday officiated at Great George-street Chapel, for fifty years the scene of his zealous and successful labours as a minister of the Gospel. When he entered the pulpit it was evident that he was deeply touched on again standing in the place which was so familiar to him, and on beholding in their accustomed places so many that were before his retirement under his pastoral care. When, however, in his prayer, he commended to the care of their Heavenly Father the pastor and people now worshipping in that place, his feelings overcame him, and tears of deep tenderness and sympathy dropped from his aged eyes. Many of the congregation were also moved to tears, and it was some seconds before the devotional exercise was proceeded with. Although now in the seventy-fifth year of his age, there is little apparent decay in the rich musical voice of the reverend doctor, and he preached an affecting sermon from a portion of Genesis xlvii. 9, "Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been."—*Liverpool Mercury.*

THE SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—At the different services on Sunday, the preachers were—Surrey: W. Carter. Sadler's-wells: Rev. J. Sloman and Rev. F. Tyrrell. Standard: Rev. W. Gullan. Pavilion: Rev. J. Patteson. Effingham: Rev. Hugh Cobham. Britannia: Rev. A. M'Anslane. The preachers at St. James's-hall were the Rev. Newman Hall and Rev. J. S. Hall. The services in the Surrey are now being carried on by the "Additional Theatre Committee," the "United Committee" having concluded their engagement with the lease. A new series of Sunday Evening Special Services under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral was commenced on Sunday evening. The attendance was very large. The Bishop of London preached on the authenticity and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, taking as his text 1 Cor. ii. 13, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." In the course of his discourse the Bishop claimed for God's written Word that it should be treated in these days by earnest, thoughtful, and religious men, as reverently as the spoken word would have been treated by them at the time of its first utterance. What would have been thought of any listener to the Sermon on the Mount, if, instead of accepting the whole heavenly lesson, he had carped at words and phrases? It was well that, since men's minds were disturbed on this great subject, there was no practical difficulty in distinguishing between the passing letter and the ever-binding spirit. Chronology, geology, intricate calculations, could not shake or set aside the inspired truth of the Scriptures. The Right Rev. Bishop concluded with an earnest exhortation to his hearers to inquire reverently where human fallibility might seem to have jarred with Divine inspiration.

OLD AND NEW YEARS' SERVICES.—The *Globe* says:—"On Wednesday night and Thursday morning, a ceremony which was some years ago nearly confined to the Wesleyan body, but which has of late extended itself to Churchmen (High, Low, and Broad) and the various Dissenting bodies, was observed with great solemnity in many parts of the metropolis. Services in the various chapels of the Dissenters commenced for the most part about half-past ten o'clock, and consisted of prayers, psalms, reading the Scriptures, and brief exhortations, until nearly midnight. As the clock pointed to the waning hour of the old year all knelt down and engaged in prayer, and so continued until the sound of the clock told that the old year had passed away for ever. They then sang a thanksgiving hymn for the commencement of the new year, and, after a few friendly congratulations and mutual good wishes, proceeded homewards. At the churches in connection with the Establishment where the ceremony was observed the services were, of course, somewhat different. At St. Paul's, Walworth, where High-Church views prevail, there was a full choral service, with the administration of the Holy Communion, which was brought to a close just after the new year had commenced. At Clare-market Chapel, in the parish of St. Clement's Dances, there was also a choral service, with Holy Communion. At Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury, of which the Rev. J. C. M. Bellew has lately become the minister, there was a full musical service, with an appropriate sermon. At the Scotch Church, Crown-court, Covent garden, Dr. Cumming took advantage of the last night of the old year for delivering his annual sermon to young men in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association. There were large attendances at many of the churches and chapels."—One of the most interesting of the other midnight assemblies was that which took place, on the eighth annual occasion, in the "Favorite" Omnibus Yard, Islington. A large coach shed decorated with holly, mottoes, &c., was filled with

the omnibus men and their wives, who after partaking of tea provided by friends, listened with marked interest to a series of addresses appropriate to the occasion, delivered by clergymen present. The exact midnight hour was spent in silent prayer, after which the proceedings were brought to a close with a hymn and the benediction.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—WEST CLAYTON-STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—During the past year considerable progress has been made; the debt of the church, amounting to 1,350*l.*, has been reduced to 1,000*l.* New missions to the poor and outlying population have been opened. In the course of the year the pastor, the Rev. H. T. Robjohns, B.A., has delivered a course of lectures on the Ecclesiastical History of England. On Friday, Dec. 26, 300 of the poor, the objects of the missions of the church, met to take tea. It then appeared that some young men connected with the church had, very much on their own responsibility, established two new mission-stations in the low parts of the town. Services for worship and preaching had been held, 320 "British Workmen" sold, 3,200 tracts distributed. In one district the ladies voluntarily formed themselves into a Bible-class. The labours of the young men are followed up by the visits of Christian ladies. It is intended in the course of the year to form a women's benefit club and a savings-bank in connexion with the mission. On Tuesday, Dec. 30, the annual congregational tea came off. The tea was provided by the ladies of the church; financially it was a great success. The pastor presided. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. S. Goodall, of Durham, George Bell, Wildon Carr, George Stewart, and H. W. Holland. The psalmody class sang Camidge's Sanctus, "Thine, O Lord," Jackson's Te Deum, Tallis's Minor Canon, and "Come unto Me." The following is a brief report of the position of affairs:—Contributions of the church towards self-support, benevolent objects, and aggressive work, about 670*l.* In the two Sunday-schools, 440 scholars and thirty teachers. The Sunday-school sick-clubs (two) have collected from the children, 120*l.* The minister's Bible-class is numerous and successful. The Young Men's Eclectic Society, founded during last year, is growing, and the members are about to hold their first *soirée*. A Philharmonic Society is about to be formed in order to provide music for the church gatherings and meetings of the poor. At the tea-meeting another 100*l.* towards the liquidation of the debt was announced. This, with 250*l.* raised before, makes 350*l.* raised within the last nine months; a part of this, however, came into the exchequer through the disposal of an item of church property. The people have every reason to thank God and take courage.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF GREENFIELD SCHOOLS, MANNINGHAM.—On Saturday afternoon, the foundation-stone of new schools about to be erected in connection with Greenfield Independent chapel, Manningham, was laid by Mr. Ald. Brown, of Bradford. The site of the schools adjoins the chapel. The building will be in the early English style of architecture, corresponding with the place of worship. On the ground floor there will be an infant school, a meeting-room, and four class-rooms, and on the upper floor four class-rooms and a large school-room. The upper school-room will have an open roof, of stained timbers, and will be lighted by four triplet lancet windows. The whole will be heated by hot-water pipes. The cost of the schools, without the fittings, will be between 1,000*l.* and 1,100*l.* It is expected that the building will be completed about May next. Messrs. Andrews and Delaunay, of Bradford, are the architects, and Messrs. Farnish and Bell the builders. The service on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone took place partly in the chapel and partly on the site of the schools. The Rev. J. G. Miall delivered an address in the chapel, and the Revs. W. Jackson, H. Dowson, D. Sim, and T. Gasquoine, B.A., took part in the proceedings. Immediately before laying the stone, Mr. Alderman Brown addressed the large assemblage that had gathered together. In the course of his address he said the object for which the building was to be erected was the Christian instruction of the young and rising generation of that portion of the township of Manningham. He understood the arrangements of the contemplated building were very complete and satisfactory. In the ten years from 1851 to 1861, the township of Manningham had increased in population more than any other township in the borough of Bradford. The population of Manningham in 1861 was 12,890, and in 1851 it was 9,614; so that the increase in the ten years was 3,276. That increase was still going on, and it was necessary that their Christian friends of all denominations should be up and doing in order to overtake the population which was springing up around them. He was glad to find that their friends there were doing what they could to meet the spiritual wants of the rising generation, and he trusted that, with God's blessing upon their labours, they would soon see large and handsome schools erected on that spot. The stone was then laid. Beneath it were deposited a bottle, sealed, containing a copy of the *Bradford Observer*, *Bradford Review*, and *Leeds Mercury* of the latest dates, and a document containing the names of the pastor of Greenfield Chapel, the layer of the foundation-stone, the deacons connected with the church, and the school officers. At the conclusion of the service, tea was provided in the old school-room, Carlisle-road, after which a meeting was held, with the Rev. T. Gasquoine in the chair, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. D. Sim, W. Kingland, Dr. Fraser, Professor Hartley, M.A., and Mr. Alderman Kenion. A collection was made after tea to defray expenses; any surplus to go to the building fund.

Correspondence.

DENOMINATIONAL UNION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I am glad that you are opening your columns to the question of the union of different Dissenting bodies. No more fitting memorial of the struggles of 1662 can be conceived than the realisation of the hopes which some of your correspondents express. How many are prepared at once to move, and how far we can go, are points not easily settled. Further discussion may throw light upon both.

Let us be careful, however, not to overlook the measure of unity already attained, or attainable on our present system. There is an organic unity among all true Christians which we must not ignore. On the great doctrines of our faith we feel alike, and think alike. In spite of all ecclesiastical divisions, this oneness must be recognised and honoured. More than this, no external division need alienate Christian men from one another. Differences on subordinate doctrines are perfectly compatible with mutual affection and respect, and this affection and respect, we may cultivate, however we be undivided, and whatever comes of these discussions. In fact the ecclesiastical unity for which your correspondents plead is a small boon compared with the unity of truth and of affection which we either have already, or can have, if we will but exercise greater watchfulness and grace.

I insist on this unity of truth and of love for several reasons. Through overlooking their religion is dishonoured, sin is excused, and the attention of Christian men is drawn in the wrong direction. "The Church is hopelessly divided," says the world: "what is truth, is a question as pertinent now as in Pilate's day." "We need more light," says the Church, "and then we shall have more love." It is denominationalism that is to blame, not our tempers or spirit. "Give us a simpler organisation," say the men of progress, "a more catholic communion, and then we shall be one, and the world will believe." Now to the world I venture to say that on all great vital truths Christian men are agreed. To the Church, that while denominationalism does some mischief, unholiness does more. More love, then more light, is the Divine order. And to the men of progress, that if they trust to a simpler organisation and a more catholic communion, and neglect the cultivation of a loving spirit, their plans will fail. The Church of Christ needs something more than greater freedom and wider fellowship.

And yet these she does need. The great body of Pædobaptists recognise none but Pædobaptist churches. The Baptists recognise none but Baptist churches. The Calvinist recognises only Calvinistic churches. The Evangelical Arminian only Arminian churches. They each make Pædobaptism or Baptism, Calvinism or Arminianism, essential to church-membership. It is true that they may acknowledge the Christianity of members of other communions, admit their members to the Lord's Supper, sometimes even to ordinary membership—but not to equal membership, including eligibility to every office. It is true, also, that on some points there is a practical laxity which our creeds and trust-deeds would condemn. But in theory sameness of views on Baptism or Pædobaptism or Calvinism or Arminianism, is as essential to full church-membership as is conversion itself. Should this be?

It is of course a large question, and a hint or two is all I can ask space to suggest. But why not frame trust-deeds, the only things that interfere with our freedom, so as to provide—

1. That the doctrines taught be Evangelical.
2. That the society formed be Christian.
3. That the church be Congregational, with liberty to enter into such combinations as it may from time to time think right? Allow me a word or two on each of these points.

1. *Evangelical*.—Such doctrines are now familiar to Christians, and are recognised even in law. We have the authority of Dr. Bunting for affirming that Evangelical Arminians hold all that is most characteristic of moderate Calvinism, and I cannot see why all who hold evangelical views might not be members of one church.

2. *Christian*.—The society should be made up of men who give credible evidence of personal piety. Less than this we cannot have. It is the grand distinction of the churches of the early age. How piety is to be ascertained, and how professed, are questions that we may leave to the good sense of Christian men.

3. *Congregational, with liberty to combine*.—The New Testament Church is Congregational: and yet there is a general feeling amongst us that closer union, or wider combination, or even a more skilful blending of apparently antagonistic principles of government, is desirable. If churches wish such modifications, they ought to be free to adopt them, provided only they leave to their successors the freedom they claim and exercise for themselves.

Had we no chapels or trust-deeds, all these suggestions would be needless. It is the "mammon of unrighteousness" that creates the difficulty. Any church—Pædobaptist or Baptist—might to-morrow admit to membership any Christian man, and to its pulpit as pastor, any minister who preached the Gospel, and no harm ensue, provided there were no chapel in trust. As the case is, Baptism or Pædobaptism is as essential as the Gospel, and sound views on the Five Points as essential as piety. Should this be?

You will do me injustice if you conclude that because I plead for freedom on minor points, I deem them trivial. You will do the cause of freedom injustice if you call for silence on all points on which the members of the proposed churches are not agreed. Open churches have done as much mischief by gagging their ministers as by anything else. I hold strong, clear, decisive opinions on all the questions I have briefly indicated, but practically I have never felt any difficulty in co-operating with godly men who love the Gospel, though on these they differ from me. I help them in our common object, and supplement their deficiencies, as I deem them, whenever I can.

The whole question claims the serious consideration of practical men; and especially of those who are so zealously and so nobly multiplying chapels, and seeking by buildings to extend our system. It may be a difficult thing to modify existing deeds, but surely we need not perpetuate and increase the mischief. No chapel-building society of any of our Dissenting communities will help chapels unless they are denominational, and

made denominational for ever. Open any place for forming a Christian church, and for preaching the great doctrines of our common faith, lesser points being left to the conscience and insight of the preacher or of the community, and neither Pædobaptist nor Baptist society can aid.

Should this be? Is it consistent with our principles that a Church is an association (not surely of godly Pædobaptists or Baptists, but) of believing men? Is it not a relic of the system which thrust out the best men of the seventeenth century? Is it not an attempt to perpetuate in the church of Christ opinions and practices, one-half of which must be wrong, and none of which are essential either to the Gospel or to piety? We have been building the tombs of the prophets. We have honoured the men of 1662 for their love of freedom of conscience, and of truth. Godly men, evangelical ministers, we admit them, on the whole, to be: many of them eminently godly, and eminently evangelical. Yet are there hundreds of our churches over which many of these men, evangelical, godly, congregational though they be, would not be suffered to preside; and hundreds more that could not receive them into church-fellowship. Herein, are we the children of the prophets, or of those who expelled them?

S.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In common with a vast number of Nonconformists, I welcome the discussion which you have invited on this really great subject. I do not propose now to enter on the various phases of this most interesting topic, but briefly to state the practical steps which have been taken in this city by the two denominations (Baptists and Independents) in the direction of a permanent union. For three years these two sections of the Congregational Church have united in purse and person at their missionary anniversaries. The details of this union are as follows:—On the Sabbath-day the ministers of the several churches (Baptist, Independent, and Lady Huntingdon) exchange pulpits. On Monday evening an aggregate public meeting is held in St. Andrew's Hall, attended by a joint deputation from the two missionary societies. On Tuesday evening a sermon is preached to an aggregate assembly in the same hall, and on the Wednesday evening the members of all the evangelical churches are invited to meet together at the table of the Lord. Collections are of course made after such service. Those from the Sabbath services are appropriated in accordance with the denomination of the respective congregations, but those from the aggregate meetings are divided equally between the Baptist and London Missionary Societies. The financial results to each society have been a decided improvement on the experience of previous years; but the benefits have not been estimated by mere pecuniary considerations. The moral results have been far superior to these—Christian brethren have been brought together in the actual service of the church who rarely if ever met before. Each denomination has heard from the other what the Lord has done through its respective agency. If cause has been shown for joy, they have rejoiced together—if cause for sorrow, they have mourned together. Thus Christian sympathy has been excited and kept alive, and the bond of fellowship every year has been drawn closer and closer, and that not so much by mere verbal profession, which too often has been barren of results, but by practical co-operation in the service of our common Lord. And if so, much good has been apparent from so limited an attempt. What nobler results may not be anticipated from a more comprehensive union involving the amalgamation of churches, it may be of the same denomination, but which are now competing "interests," as well as the grander scheme which would unite in the visible fellowship of the Gospel of Christ, entire denominations, now separated by non-essential differences, which affect only the individual member, and in no way (that I can see) either hinder or promote the great work, the promotion of which constitutes the sacred duty and the high privilege of the church collective here on earth.

May the step now taken by you and your correspondents result in complete and early success!

Yours, &c.,

C. J.

Norwich, Jan. 5, 1863.

THE DESIGNATION OF DISSENTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,—In reading the animating and valuable address of the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society just issued, the thought recurred to me (and I dare say it is not new to many of your readers), that the general appellation of "Dissenters," as distinguished from those Churchmen (I use the term in a wide sense), who are more or less bound to the State, is to a large extent, a misnomer. The term "Dissent" is a mere negative one, and suggestive to many of our opponents of little more than sour bigotry and censoriousness; and certainly does not comprehend all we contend for. I therefore submit to Nonconformists in general that the time has arrived when a more satisfactory and distinctive title might be adopted—Free-Churchmen, or some such. None exactly pleasing to myself occurs, but I thought I might venture to call the attention of thyself and others to the subject.

Thy friend, respectfully,

RICHARD B. GIBBS.

Crook, near Darlington, 1st month, 3, 1863.

HIGH TIME FOR DECISION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The time for silence is past, and the truth shall be heard. We have, as Dissenters, been too humble, and have allowed ourselves to be crushed by the Established Church without replying. But that time is gone—is past. We have been gathering strength. Year by year we have been growing, until in 1863, as Nonconformists, we have a power for good, which, if put forth, might go a great way towards crushing the heresies which now ride triumphant in the Church. If Dissenters think that there will be any outward change in the Establishment they make a great mistake. They talk about a split. There will be no such thing. What is the Church? It is simply the world. What would the younger sons of the nobility and gentry do if the Church was detached from the State? The Church must be left.

To improve it is impossible. To try to purge it is useless. There are godly men in it; there are holy men in it; but they are in a fearful minority. Like the city of Sodom, the Church has its few Lots; but as a system, to God it is an abomination. I do not write to abuse, but to warn Nonconformist ministers of the gigantic evil. The evil now is a trifle compared with what it will be. Let but our present Premier die, and the Shaftesbury influence will be over. Then will come in like a flood the vast sea of Puseyism. It cannot be kept out. All the present generation in the Church are being brought up in High-Church principles, and what the effect of this will be in twenty years' time must be obvious to all readers. Pure religion will depend on Nonconformists. And are we ready to take the cause up? It is no good one or two men earnestly preaching the fundamental doctrines if the great body of our preachers will not catch the same fire and warm with the same earnestness. Shall the foul disgrace stand as a blot upon us that we, the descendants of John Bunyan, let Rome into England again when our forefathers laboured, bled, and died in fighting against its bloodthirsty yoke? It is Rome we have got to contend against. It is the priests we are fighting against. Not against some few High-Church clergymen ought we to direct our efforts, but against the system of the Church of Rome must we fight even to the death. Ministers are not aware of the danger. We are at ease in Zion when the horse is (as in days of old) being let down into our very midst. We have let it in without a word; now all we can do is to fight with the enemy that is within our fortifications. This subject must not die. It must be thought of. We are getting so used to the phrase High-Church that we forget what it is. But strip it of all its tawdry trappings, set it out in all its hideous nakedness, and you see at once the enemy against which our forefathers fought, bled, and died.

Walworth-road.

S. W.

BOCKING BALL AND THE CLERGY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In my travels a copy of the *Chelmsford Chronicle* of Jan. 2 fell into my hands. In speaking of the above ball it states:—"Dancing being kept up with great spirit, considerable *éclat* pervaded the *assemblée* from beginning to end." On looking down the column for the names of the attendants, I saw, to my utter astonishment, that out of a number, by no means considerable, there were present no fewer than five clergymen with their wives. I could not help contrasting this "spirited dancing," "*éclat*," &c., kept up to an advanced hour of the morning, with the cry around us for greater earnestness and spirituality in the pulpit of both the Establishment and Dissent in the present day, as the best means to gain access to the million. It must be beyond all things deplorable that there are yet in the Establishment those whom apostolical succession has entrusted with "the care of souls" and still able to find their hearts content among the frivolities of a ball-room. We wonder how much of the religious element is introduced into the proceedings of the night and morning by her representatives at such meetings. We should be very sorry to believe that the proportion here is any index to the spirituality of our shepherds throughout the kingdom at large, or that the people of Essex should be "calves" enough to content themselves upon the food such a worldly ministry can afford them. Who can wonder that the Liberation Society, and others of a like nature, are seen flourishing, while there exists such a close relationship between the pulpit and the ball-room? The Bishop of Rochester, I find, has signified his protest against admitting his Episcopal brother of Natal to officiate within his diocese; consistency would suggest that his lordship should not forget to provide a paragraph in his next visitation philippic touching the dancing and fox-hunting propensities of his clerical subordinates.

Your obedient servant,

BRITANNICUS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The following proceedings took place in the Grand Council of the Canton of Vaud, in Switzerland, on the 3rd December, 1862:—

"M. De Crousaz, the President, presented a report on a bill for the marriage of a brother and sister-in-law. The commission unanimously (with the exception of one member who opposed) recommended the adoption of the bill.

Article 1st is couched in the following terms: "Article 69 of the Civil Code is repealed, and replaced by the following provisions. Article 69. In the collateral line marriage is prohibited between the brother and the sister legitimate or natural; between a divorced person, and the sister or brother of his or her consort." Adopted.

Article 2nd. "Marriages which, in contravention of Article 69 of the Civil Code, have been celebrated previously to the present law, between a brother-in-law and a sister-in-law, and which have not been pronounced void, shall be valid, and produce all their effects from the date of the day of their celebration, without prejudice to other causes of nullity, if any there be."

M. Duplan, Councillor of State, justified the retrospective operation of this article, by the fact that there were in the Canton many marriages between brothers and sisters-in-law, marriages celebrated in foreign countries where they are permitted, and that it was necessary in the interest of the family and of the issue, to give these marriages the benefit of the new law by making them valid from the moment of their celebration. Articles 2, 3, 4, and with them the whole bill, were adopted on the first debate.

At a sitting of the council on the 5th December the bill was adopted without amendment, on the second and third debate, to take effect from that day.

There is now no known country in the world, except our own, in which a man may not contract a lawful marriage with his deceased wife's sister.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

JOSEPH STANSBURY, M.A.,

Honorary Secretary, Marriage Law Reform Association.

21, Parliament-street, S.W., 1863.

BICENTENARY NONCONFORMIST PUBLICATIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—It has been represented to me as a thing desirable, if practicable, to collect and publish a list of all the books, pamphlets, and lectures which have been

signed on the Bicentenary celebration. I am in possession of information respecting many of them, but not of all. If the several authors or their friends will furnish me with the materials requisite for such a list, I shall have pleasure in preparing it for publication. I beg, therefore, to request, through your columns, every author who has published anything on the question to be good enough to send me the exact title of such publication, together with the author's name, the publisher, and the price.

I remain yours, &c.,

JOHN CORBIN.

4, Blomfield-street, London, E.C.,
Jan. 5th, 1863.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The latest dates from New York are to Dec. 24.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

A Cabinet crisis has occurred in Washington. The Republican members of the Senate, in a caucus, declared want of confidence in the Government, their action being principally directed against Mr. Seward. Mr. Seward immediately tendered his resignation, which was followed by a similar step on the part of Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury. President Lincoln accepted neither resignation, and requested both to resume their offices. Mr. Seward and Mr. Chase have accordingly resumed their functions in the State and Treasury departments. In all the interviews with the Republican Senators the President defended Mr. Seward warmly, denying that he had actively interfered with the military movements, or that his policy had been detrimental to the conduct of the war. He expressed the most unbounded confidence in Secretaries Stanton and Chase, and thought Secretary Welles had done all that could be done.

It is supposed in some quarters that a reconstruction of the Federal Cabinet will yet take place. The hostile public feeling against General Halleck and Mr. Stanton daily increases.

THE DEFEAT AT FREDERICKSBURG.

An official report estimates the Federal loss at 1,128 killed, 9,105 wounded, and 2,078 missing, making a total of 12,311.

General Meagher's Irish Brigade went into action 1,200 strong; 250 alone survived. General Butterfield was engaged but half an hour and lost nearly 3,000 men. General Hancock had 40 officers killed and 160 wounded, his total loss being one half of his division. General French took into the battle 7,000 men, and two days after but 1,200 had reported to him.

President Lincoln had issued an order expressive of thanks to the Army of the Potomac. He speaks in the highest terms of their courage, and of the skill displayed in crossing and recrossing the river in the face of an enemy. "Condoling," he says, "with the mourners for the dead, and sympathising with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small."

General Burnside has stated to the Congressional Committee appointed to inquire into the fact of the disaster at Fredericksburg, that he accepted the command against his will, and that he had previously refused the position, but by the advice of General McClellan and others he accepted it.

The committee have presented their report. They examined Generals Burnside, Sumner, Hooker, Franklin, Halleck, and others, and have presented the evidence without comment. It appears that General Burnside's original plan was to move suddenly to Fredericksburg, cross there, and push rapidly on to Richmond. He expected to get thirty or forty miles south before the rebels came up, and if they gave him battle he felt perfectly confident of his ability to crush them and drive them into their works at Richmond. He was promised pontoon bridges and supplies from Falmouth. General Sumner reached there, but found no bridges or supplies. This was the fatal omission that saved the rebel army and capital. It gave them a delay of ten days, in which the heights opposite were fortified. Jackson and Hill arrived by forced marches, and every available rebel soldier in Eastern Virginia reached Burnside's front. At last the Federal army was ready to move. Several plans were proposed. General Burnside was to carry the first line of rebel works by storm, and then follow them so rapidly that they could not make a stand behind the others, when they were to be driven by the reserves until decimated and forced to surrender or disperse among the mountains. The plan was approved by the leading generals except General Hooker, who dissented, but agreed to lend his energies to the attack. It was endorsed by General Halleck, who had previously issued orders that the rebels must be attacked. General Meigs throws the blame of the non-arrival of the pontoons on the engineers, but General Halleck says they are in no way responsible for any details regarding the movement. General Woodbury says the delay was on account of their not having started in time and bad roads. The President and Secretary of War are entirely free from responsibility. The censure will all fall on military men.

It was rumoured that General Burnside sent in his resignation, and that the President refused to accept it. The general left Washington on the 22nd to return to headquarters.

"The movements of the army of the Rappahannock are not of much importance," says the *New York Herald* of the 23rd ult. "The wounded in the late action are being carefully attended to. The weather in the vicinity of Falmouth continues fine, and the troops are said to be in good spirits." The Confederates are strengthening their front.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S REPORT.

General Halleck had received the following report of the affair at Fredericksburg:—
To Major-General Halleck, General-in-Chief, United States Army, Washington.

Head-quarters Army of the Potomac,
Falmouth, Dec. 19, 1862.

General.—I have the honour to offer the following reasons for moving the army of the Potomac across the Rappahannock sooner than was anticipated by the President, Secretary of War, and yourself, and for crossing at a point different from the one indicated to you at our last meeting at the President's:—

During my preparations for crossing at the place I had first selected, I discovered that the enemy had thrown a large portion of his force down the river and elsewhere, thus weakening his defences in front, and also thought I discovered that he did not anticipate the crossing of our whole force at Fredericksburg, and hoped, by rapidly throwing the whole command over at that place, to separate by a vigorous attack the forces of the enemy on the river below from the forces behind and on the crest in the rear of the town, in which case we could fight him with great advantage in our favour. To do this we had to gain a height on the extreme right of the crest, which height commanded a new road lately made by the enemy for the purpose of more rapid communication along his lines, which point gained, his positions along the crest would have been scarcely tenable, and he could have been driven from them easily by an attack on his front, in connexion with a movement in the rear of the crest. How near we came of accomplishing our object; but for the fog and unexpected and unavoidable delay in building the bridges, which gave the enemy 23 hours more to concentrate his forces in his strong positions, we would almost certainly have succeeded. In which case the battle would have been, in my opinion, far more decisive than if we had crossed at the places first selected. As it was, we came very near success. Failing in accomplishing the main object, we remained in order of battle two days, long enough to decide that the enemy would not come out of his strongholds to fight us with his infantry, after which we recrossed to this side of the river unopposed and without the loss of men or property. As the day broke our long lines of troops were seen marching to their different positions as if going on parade. Not the least demoralisation or disorganisation existed.

To the brave officers and soldiers who accomplished the feat of thus recrossing the river in the face of the enemy I owe everything. For the failure in attack I am responsible, as the extreme gallantry, courage, and endurance shown by them was never exceeded, and would have carried the points had it been possible. To the families and friends of the dead I can only offer my heartfelt sympathy, but for the wounded I can offer my earnest prayers for their comfort and final recovery.

The fact that I decided to move from Warrenton on to this line rather against the opinion of the President, Secretary of War, and yourself, and that you left the whole movement in my hands, without giving me orders, makes me responsible. I will visit you very soon and give you more definite information, and finally I will send you my detailed report, in which a special acknowledgment will be made of the services of the different grand divisions, corps, and my general and staff departments of the Army of the Potomac, to whom I am so much indebted for their support and hearty co-operation. I will add here that the movement was made earlier than you expected, and after the President, Secretary of War, and yourself requested me not to be in haste, for the reason that we were supplied much sooner by the different staff departments than was anticipated when I last saw you.

Our killed amount to 1,132, our wounded to about 9,000, and our prisoners 700, which last have been paroled and exchanged for about the same number taken by us. The wounded were all removed to this side of the river, and are being well cared for, and the dead were all buried under a flag of truce. The surgeons report a much larger proportion of slight wounds than usual, 1,632 only being treated in hospitals.

I am glad to represent the army at the present time in good condition.

Thanking the Government for that entire support and confidence which I have always received from them, I remain, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. E. BURNSIDE, Major-General commanding
Army of Potomac.

FEDERAL LOSSES AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The *New York correspondent* of the *Daily News*, writing under date December 20, in the midst of "indignation and despondency," increasing in intensity, gives some further information touching the great blunder on the Rappahannock:—

The more we know of that tremendous struggle the more excuse there seems to be for those who are disposed to despair of the country and the cause. Instead of only 40,000 men having been engaged, as we were at first led to believe, it now appears that the whole army took part in the fray; and that, instead of only 5,000 men having been killed and wounded, 13,500 are, at the lowest estimate, the number of the victims of this stupendous folly. It appears that from early morn until dark night division after division was hurled against a steep hillside, honeycombed with rifle-pits, lined with stone walls and redoubts, bristling with batteries and crowned with woods, and defended by 100,000 men; that at sunset Hooker's reserves, the flower of the army, led by a man whose unconquerable audacity has procured for him the sobriquet of "fighting Joe Hooker," went into action maddened and desperate by looking on all day from the other side of the river at the slaughter of their comrades. After a brief but tremendous struggle of about half-an-hour's duration the night fell, and they, too, were compelled to retreat, shattered and broken. On the left, where there were no stone walls to hit against, although the position was terribly strong, Jackson was driven on a mile and his first line forced, but at tremendous cost; and as long as the centre was not carried this partial success was useless. The story, as I have it from eye-witnesses, is unparalleled in the annals of military blundering. Every column that advanced against the centre encountered 500 yards in front of the position which they were directed to carry with the bayonet the converging fire of upwards of sixty guns,

ranged in a semicircle on the heights behind, and the close, well-aimed, and ceaseless musketry of 30,000 or 40,000 men, concealed in the woods, in the rifle-pits, behind the stone wall, and in the adjoining houses. What this meant you may guess from the fact that French's division, which was the first to attack, went into action 6,000 strong; it came out with only 1,500 men untouched. The other divisions did not suffer quite so severely, but all suffered terribly. There has been nothing like it in the war, except the Southern charge upon McClellan's position at Malvern Hills,—another piece of butchery as heroic and as useless. This last one was, however, more terrible, for it united temerity with courage. The carnage began at daybreak, and division after division marched to its fate all day long, each leaving its mound of dead at the foot of the entrenchments, and then straggling down the hill into cover under withering volleys from every crest and knoll within a mile round.

CONDITION OF THE ARMY AND MILITARY PROSPECTS.

The reports on this subject are conflicting. The *Times* correspondent says:—

It is, in fact, the military, rather than the political, situation that causes disquiet. General Burnside admits a loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, of nearly ten thousand men. Reports from the camp introduce a new element. Ten thousand only may have been killed and wounded, but twice the number have disappeared since the day of battle. Twenty thousand soldiers have, in American parlance, "skedaddled," by ones, twos, and threes; and in some instances, by whole companies. In fact, if these letters from officers, as well as from private soldiers, may be believed, the once great Army of the Potomac is rapidly melting away.

On the other hand, the *Daily News* correspondent says:—

There is a very much more cheerful feeling about military matters than there was when I last wrote. Burnside's letter has done a good deal to reassure the public, both as to the condition of the army and as to his relations with the Government. There is a general determination abroad to see that the general commanding in the field shall have his own way. Burnside's force is now over its original strength, and from all that I can learn its morale is as good as ever.

THE WAR IN THE WEST.

It is reported that the Confederates have advanced in force through Pound Gap, from Western Virginia into Kentucky, with the view of attacking Lexington.

Federal General Sherman's expedition left Memphis on the 20th of November for Vicksburg or Grenada. He is reported to have replaced General McClellan in command, and to be at the head of 25,000 men. He will be aided by a flotilla of gunboats. Other news from the south-west indicates that General Grant's army is in a critical position, and in danger of having its communications with its base of operations cut off.

The *New York Times* says:—

We learn from Baltimore that the rebels are supposed to be moving large bodies of troops from Fredericksburg to the west, under the impression that the former point can be held against our army with a much smaller force than is now concentrated there. Our correspondent says that there are literally no troops of any account at Richmond or on the peninsula. General Lee has 75,000 at Fredericksburg, and not a man more. Except guerrillas there are no other troops in Virginia, unless it be 15,000 at Petersburg. There are 40,000 at Charleston and 30,000 at Savannah, both under Beauregard, and 25,000 at Mobile. The great strength of the Confederacy, however, is now being concentrated towards Nashville and Vicksburg, and it is safe to say that there will be in a few days fully 100,000 rebel troops at each of these two points.

Despatches from Mobile state that eight Federal transports from Lake City had been captured at Carson's Landing, Mississippi.

It now appears that General Banks's expedition is to operate in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi. The *Times* correspondent reports that he is to supersede Butler at New Orleans, and intimates that Butler may take Halleck's place at Washington.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

The *Washington Republican* reports that the President said to a committee of distinguished gentlemen which waited upon him during the latter part of last week, in regard to the emancipation proclamation and other matters, that he had carefully considered the matter before issuing his proclamation, and that having since had no occasion to change his views on the subject, there would be no withdrawal, modification, or postponement of it, he still believing the interest of the country demanded its enforcement.

According to another report, dated Dec. 22, the President has informed the Border State Committee that he issued the emancipation proclamation from a belief that it would effect good results; but if convinced of the contrary, he would modify his position upon that subject, as he desired to do the best under the circumstances.

A telegram of the 24th says, it was not believed that the President would modify the proclamation.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

In the House of Representatives at Washington on the 22nd, Mr. Vallandigham (Opposition), of Ohio, offered a resolution, urging the adoption of measures for the restoration of peace, saying he proposed to debate it. It was laid over for future consideration.

Leave was given by a vote of 77 against 33 to report a bill appropriating twenty million dollars to aid Missouri in emancipating her slaves.

In the Senate, on the 23rd, Mr. Lane, of Kansas, gave notice of a bill to authorise the President to raise 200 regiments of infantry, composed of persons of African descent.

Congress has passed a resolution, directing the Government to inquire if the American Minister in Mexico used his influence to favour the French.

The Secretary of the Treasury has sent in a bill re-

commending a loan of 900,000,000 dollars, at a rate of interest not exceeding that authorised by law. He does not suggest any augmentation of the Treasury notes. Both houses have adjourned to January 15.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

THE BORDER STATE REPRESENTATIVES have waited on the President, urging him strongly to withdraw the emancipation proclamation. The increasing restiveness of the pro-slavery party, as the time for its going into execution draws near, is an additional proof that it is not altogether a *brutum fulmen*.

THE SOUTHERN FAITH. — The *Richmond Examiner* of December 8th thus concludes an article on President's Lincoln's message: — "The fact is, when the Creator established the different races of men, he established their position and adapted them to their places. That which harmonises with the Creative will is happiness. That which opposes it is discord and unhappiness. The negro, from the time of Canaan, has occupied the position of a servant. He has been fitted for it by disposition and instinct, and is therefore happy in it, and is not happy out of it. In his place he is useful. Out of it he is a mere savage; and if out of it and in the bosom of a community of the superior race, he is a pest. It is the effort of the Yankee States to dictate our institutions, and in so doing to ruin us by attempting to amend a decree of the Creator so as to make it suit their ideas, that has caused the present troubles."

"ARE COLOURED MEN CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES?" — The opinion of the Attorney-General of the United States on this important question is now completed, and in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury, at whose request it was prepared. The facts on which it is based are stated as follows: —

The schooner *Elizabeth* and *Margaret*, of New Brunswick, is detained by the revenue-cutter *Tiger* at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, because commanded by a coloured man, and so by a person not a citizen of the United States. As coloured masters are numerous in our coasting trade, I submit to you the question suggested by Captain Martin, of the *Tiger*, "Are coloured men citizens of the United States, and therefore competent to command American vessels?"

As some incorrect statements have gone forth in regard to this question, we give the chief points. The constitution does not define the word "citizen," so the Attorney-General examines history and the civil law, from the days of Rome down, for its meaning. His conclusion is, that all free persons, without distinction of race or colour, if native born, are citizens. A distinction is made between the inherent rights of citizens and the political privileges of certain classes. All citizens have a right to protection, but only certain classes enjoy the privileges of voting and holding office. Hitherto not only the public but jurists have often confounded the two. A child or a woman is a citizen, though not always privileged to vote or hold office. The *Dred Scott* opinions are pronounced void and of no authority, since the province of the Supreme Court was only to settle the questions of the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. They are simply entitled to the respect due to the views of eminent gentlemen, and no more. The paper concludes as follows: —

And now, upon the whole matter, I give it as my opinion that the free man of colour mentioned in your letter, if born in the United States, is a citizen of the United States, and, if otherwise qualified, is competent, according to the Acts of Congress, to be master of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade. The opinion will unquestionably form one of the documentary treasures of our archives. — *Washington Correspondent of New York Herald*.

MRS. STOWE AND THE LADIES OF ENGLAND. — "It will be remembered in America and England," says the *New York Evening Post*, "that eight years ago an 'address' was sent to the women of this country signed by half-a-million of their British sisters, imploring them to use all their influence to abolish negro slavery in this country. This remarkable document, splendidly illuminated on vellum, with all the signatures, was bound up in twenty-six folio volumes, and sent to Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, to be promulgated far and wide in America. Among the ladies who first put their names to the 'address' were the wives of Lord Palmerston, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Cowley, the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Argyll, Earl Russell, Baron Parke, Lord Ruthven, Mr. Gladstone, and other well-known British celebrities. The husbands of most of the signers to this address having thrown all their influence in favour of the South against the North, and bolstered up slavery with all their powerful support, Mrs. Stowe has written a reply to this address, which will appear in the January number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, and she will lay before the 'many thousands of the women of Great Britain' in her forthcoming paper the inconsistency of their appeal. It will be a document that will stir the English heart, or we are greatly mistaken in the trenchant power of Mrs. Stowe's eloquent pen."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The House of Representatives has passed, on the Army Appropriation Bill, 731,000,000 dols. for the maintenance of the army for the year ending June, 1864, by a vote of 107 to 3.

An American paper says that a great-grand-nephew of Oliver Goldsmith was shot through the head and died at Antitam.

It is reported that the Confederate Government have appointed an agent in England to obtain a loan.

Intelligence has arrived that the Confederate ship *Alabama* is still cruising about, having been seen by a British vessel on the 30th of November in Mona Passage, near St. Domingo.

The two-hundred-and-forty-second anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock was celebrated on the 22nd by the New Eng-

land Society of New York, by a banquet at the Astor House, where speeches were made by William H. Evarts, Mayor Opdyke, Henry Ward Beecher, Rev. Dr. Lathrop, of Boston; Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn; Brigadier-Generals Andrews and Dwight.

Federal General Foster announces that he has captured Kinston, North Carolina, with eleven pieces of artillery and 400 prisoners. His loss in killed and wounded was 150. He has also captured Goldsborough, North Carolina, without much loss, and, after tearing up the railroad, returned to Newburn.

Two barques, apparently privateers, have been seen off the west edge of the Bank of Newfoundland.

The New York journals assert that the officers of several British war-steamers were present, with their steamers' bands, at a ball given by the Confederate Consul at Havannah.

On the 12th inst. the United States' gunboat *Cairo* ran upon a torpedo sunk in the Yazoo river, which exploded under her bows, shattering the hull so badly that she sank in fifteen minutes afterwards, and will prove a total loss.

The International Relief Committee has received 118,439 dols., and the Produce Exchange Committee 24,090 dols., contributed by merchants and others for the Lancashire operatives. The ship *George Griewold* is now loading for Liverpool, with supplies, under the direction of the committee.

It is stated that Mrs. Beauregard is lying dangerously ill at her residence in New Orleans, and that General Butler has sent General Beauregard an invitation to visit his wife, assuring him of every protection and courtesy.

General McClellan has not been sent for by the President.

A local calamity has happened that affects us more than all the bad war news. It is the advance of paper. Every newspaper is on the brink of ruin. Yesterday all our daily journals (save one) advanced the price from two to three cents. It is said that all must fail, even at these prices, unless paper falls. The bookmakers and publishers are holding meetings. They have resolved not to publish a book for six months, "unless the price of paper falls below the present rate." — *New York Correspondent of the Morning Herald*.

Mr. Rarey, the horse-tamer, has been appointed Commissioner of Horses in the Federal States. His first official act was to go to the army of the Potomac under Burnside. There he inquired fully into the health of the horses, and has adopted a new system to check the mortality among them.

Five vessels of General Banks' expedition have put into Philadelphia and Port Royal leaky or disabled, and a sixth has been wrecked on the Crays Fort Reef, on the coast of Florida. An official inquiry is ordered.

Madeira letters of the 19th received at Lisbon state that the Federal steamer *San Jacinto* had been firing at and stopping British steamers leaving that port within a mile and a-half of the shore. The Portuguese complain of this offence to the neutrality of their waters. Her Majesty's squadron under Admiral Smart would reach Madeira about the 24th of December, and is expected to see that the British flag be not further deprived of its right in neutral waters.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* has published the precise words spoken by the Emperor of the French at the New Year's Day reception. They are few and not important. The Emperor expressed his thanks for the good wishes conveyed to him by the Papal Nuncio on behalf of the diplomatic body, and observed that he was happy to see around him the representatives of all the Powers. "They," continued the Emperor, "can testify to my desire to live with them in those relations of friendship which are so necessary to the security of the present and the future." The *Patrie* states that the Emperor, in subsequently conversing with several Ministers, took occasion to express his regret at the absence of General Concha, the Spanish Ambassador, and to utter a hope that the relations of France and Spain may be considered as re-established on the best footing.

It is stated that when receiving the clergy upon New Year's Day, the Emperor expressed his sorrow at the death of the Archbishop of Paris, adding, that the deceased prelate had left behind him an example of moderation and wisdom which the whole French clergy should follow. The Bishop of Notre Dame, in the course of some remarks on the same occasion, said: —

In the exercise of our holy functions we shall seek, like him [the late archbishop], without regard to any other consideration, how to do the largest amount of good around us, without ever separating in our hearts the love of the Church from the love of France, and acting on all occasions according to the Saviour's precept, "Render unto God the things which are God's, and unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's."

The bishop concluded by thanking his Majesty for the visit he had paid to the dying prelate, and by stating that the clergy would always pray for the Emperor, the Empress, and the Prince Imperial.

According to another statement the Emperor said to Mr. Dayton, the American Minister, that he regretted greatly the continuance of the civil war, but he hoped before next New Year's Day matters would be settled. This was said with a sort of smile, and may be interpreted either as a pious wish, or a perdition, or even an indication of something still more significant. To another person, who the same day expressed an earnest hope that the late affair at Fredericksburg might be the last of the battles between the Federals and Confederates, the Emperor observed that he desired so too, and added,

that he hoped the war would be at an end by next spring.

According to *La France*, a reinforcement of 4,600 men has been sent to the French army in Mexico.

The *Temps*, speaking of the recent anti-slavery meeting at Manchester, says: — "We do not hesitate to consider this the most important news of the day. Who will venture to talk of the recognition of the South when the artisans of Manchester repudiate it?"

ITALY.

At the court levée on New Year's Day, the King spoke to the following effect: — "He entreated the Parliament to put trust in him, and expressed the hope that 1863 would be a happier year than 1862. He alluded to the folly of dreamers, who endangered public order. When the pacification of the Southern Provinces was achieved, the national cause would be fully triumphant. The spirit of the army was most excellent, and wholly Italian. With it and a united people the world might be defied."

The Minister of Justice has addressed a circular to the Royal Procurators in the Neapolitan provinces, urging them to recommend the dismissal of the judges who do not show sufficient zeal in the trials for brigandage. The same circular promises rewards to the persons aiding in the suppression of brigandage. A circular has been addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the Prefects, desiring them to open a national subscription to repay to families losses suffered through brigandage, and reward instances of courage displayed against brigands. It is requisite that all the Italian provinces should co-operate to avert the misfortunes of the south. Before, therefore, the course of law can be fully re-established in these provinces the Government appeals to the spontaneous concurrence of the nation.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Pasolini, thus writes to the diplomatic agents abroad: —

I reckon, Monsieur le —, upon your able and active co-operation to explain to the Government with which you are accredited what the real aims and views of Italy are. By consecrating all our efforts, on the one hand, to the internal reorganisation of the kingdom, and on the other, to render more intimate and solid those relations which unite us to other States, we will show how the constitution of Italian unity has been a veritable progress towards the consolidation of the European balance of Powers. The Italians will never forget that these advantages were obtained with the concurrence and strengthened by the adhesion of the most enlightened Powers. It was the justice of her cause, the firmness and moderation of her conduct, which won Italy this sympathetic co-operation. We shall do our best to secure a continuation of this favourable disposition in our behalf in the future, by energetically developing the forces of the country, and by winning through our loyalty the confidence and respect of the Powers without renouncing any of the principles on which the accomplishment of our national destinies must be based. Italian unity, springing from the alliance of monarchy with freedom, must continue faithful to its origin. It will always maintain that character, at once Liberal and Conservative, which has won her such earnest sympathies in the past, and which will procure her own legitimate share of influence for the future.

It is asserted that Parliament will re-open between the 20th and 25th inst.

The first number of a new journal, called *La Pace*, has appeared at Turin, under the direction of Father Passaglia. Its political tendency seems to be opposition to the Pope's temporal power.

ROME.

On the 31st ult. the Pope attended mass at the Church of Jesus. A *Te Deum* was sung in celebration of the new year. Many carriages accompanied the Pope to the church. His Holiness was in good health.

On New Year's Day the Pope received the officers of the French army of occupation. In a long speech his Holiness expressed his conviction that repentant Piedmont would fall at the feet of the chair of St. Peter, as Jacob prostrated himself before the angel after having wrestled with him all night in ignorance of his origin. He eulogised the French army, which he said was valorous in war and disciplined in peace, and thanked it for the protection it afforded against the enemies of the Holy See. He alluded to the Emperor and the virtues of the Empress, and expressed great solicitude for the Imperial Prince, his godson. In conclusion, the Pope invoked the blessing of Heaven on the officers and soldiers and their families, and the whole of France.

La Patrie publishes the following advice from Rome: — "It has been much observed that Mr. Odo Russell, the semi-official agent of the British Government at Rome, has, since his return from London, had frequent and intimate conversations with the Pope and with Cardinal Antonelli."

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Cabinet has, it appears, been issuing a circular despatch in reference to the Greek throne — the point of which is that it would be inconvenient to Europe if an Italian prince were to become the Sovereign of the new kingdom.

PRUSSIA.

The Ministry having asked the Common Councilmen of the metropolis to communicate to them the draft of their congratulatory new year's address to the King, they have refused to comply, and at once sent in the address to be forwarded to his Majesty. Among other things the address says: —

We feel confident that your Majesty will succeed in dispelling the grave apprehensions of the country, as the deplorable conflict between the Government and the Chambers, which endangers the basis of the Constitution, confuses the public mind, and lowers the foreign estimate of Prussia, remains unsolved. In the new year

may the King enter upon a course leading to peace and conciliation.

The *Pays* says:—"It is asserted that Herr von Bismarck-Schönhausen recently said to the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin, Count Caroly, 'Affairs cannot remain much longer as at present between Austria and Prussia. The influence of the Cabinet of Berlin must predominate in Northern Germany. Austria must cease to annoy Prussia by means of the small German States, and must especially abandon her project of delegates. If not, Austria must be responsible for the consequences. The first steps taken by Prussia would, in that case, be to recall her representative at the German Diet.' 'Then,' added Herr von Bismarck, 'We shall see what will follow. If things come to a crisis in Hanover and Hesse, the Prussian troops will at once occupy those States, without further warning.' 'The *Pays* adds:—The above speech of Herr von Bismarck-Schönhausen is given almost *verbatim* in his own words, but the incident will nevertheless have no further consequences."

SPAIN.

The *Official Gazette* announces that the resignation of General Concha, as ambassador at the Court of the Tuilleries, has been accepted by the Queen. The *Epoca* publishes an article characterizing as scandalous the defence of Juarez by General Prim. The *Correspondencia Autografa* says that the present relations between France and Spain offer no danger of any disturbance.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 2nd, Senor Masaredo most strongly appealed to the Finance Minister not to arrange the settlement of the English coupons before England should have delivered up Gibraltar to Spain. Senor Salaverria stated in reply that the Government was not about to propose the settlement of the English coupons.

Telegrams from Madrid allege that Marshal O'Donnell is determined to dissolve the Congress should his policy be opposed, and to stake the tenure of his office on the result of a general election.

RUSSIA.

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 24th of December, states that the cold is almost insupportable. Many of the necessities of life have risen 100 per cent. Recent letters from Russia have reported defeats in the Caucasus in general terms. It is said that "in the eastern part of the mountains, the former haunt of Sohamyl, the natives seem to have made but little progress against the overwhelming numbers and superior artillery of the Emperor; but in the west, the entire space between the great tram-road and the Black Sea has been reconquered by the original possessors, rendering it a matter of considerable difficulty for the Russians to push their reinforcements to the southern side of the hills, and resulting in the destruction of many of the fortresses which had been destined to coerce and overawe the mountaineers." From this wild scene of warfare Prince Bariatsinski has returned prematurely worn out, and is now residing in Warsaw. To remedy the evils existing in the Caucasus, the Grand Duke Michael is to be sent out in a hurry. Some writers take very gloomy views of the future of Russia, point to revolutionary committees in the army, and a general uneasiness among the people, and predict that catastrophe which has so often been predicted before.

The Russian Government approves of the suggestions of England on the Schleswig-Holstein question, and has addressed a long despatch to the Danish Government, urging it to carry them out.

GREECE.

It is stated that the Honourable Mr. Elliot has officially announced to the President of the Provisional Government the cession of the Ionian Islands by England, and the decisive refusal of Prince Alfred to accept the throne of Greece. It is also stated that Mr. Elliot has not yet recommended any other candidate.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3.—Mehemet Ali, the Capitan Pasha (Minister of Marine), has been dismissed. Mehemet Bey, now in London, has been appointed his successor. Ruchdi Pasha Seraakier (Minister of War) has been dismissed, and is to be succeeded by Raabid Pasha. Halil Pasha has been nominated Grand Master of the Artillery.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 4 (Evening).—Fuad Pasha, the Grand Vizier, Aali Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Kiamil Pasha, President of the Council of State, have tendered their resignations. It is expected that either Kiprieli-Pasha or Namick Pasha will be appointed Grand Vizier. An administrative deadlock exists.

SERVIA.

Great agitation prevails in Servia. Apprehensions are entertained of fresh demonstrations hostile to the Porte, as well as against the Government and the Prince of Servia.

INDIA, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIA.

JUBAL, Thursday, 7.45 p.m.—The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer, with the above mails, has passed here, en route for Suez.

POINT DE GALLE, December 17.—The Japanese Ambassadors have arrived here on their way to Japan.

CANTON, Nov. 30.—There has been a violent gale off Manilla, during which ten Spanish ships were lost.

SHANGHAI, Nov. 23.—Alarming reports are current

of the rebels being in the neighbourhood of this city. An engagement has taken place at Paokong, between Colonel Burgeione, the successor of General Ward, and the rebels, in which the latter lost 2,000 killed. The Russians have offered their assistance for the capture of Nankin.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 25.—There has been a run on the Colonial Bank, but it subsided the day after it commenced. The English bank-notes lately forged have been discovered in circulation in Australia. New South Wales has won the intercolonial rifle-match. The Australian Company's ship *City of Sydney* has been totally lost at Cape Green. The shipments of gold since the departure of the last mail amount to 121,250 ozs. Trade has decidedly improved.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Sir Charles Trevelyan's appointment has given universal satisfaction in India.

Five hundred citizens of Leipzig have sent a silver laurel crown to Garibaldi as a Christmas present.

The Maharajah of Ulwar, in Rajpootanah, has given the sum of 15,000 rs. towards the Lancashire Relief Fund.

Abd-el-Kader, on his way to Mecca, visited the works of the Canal Suez in company with M. de Lesseps.

The proposed dowry of the Princess Alexandra to be proposed to the Danish Diet will, it is said, be 12,000*l*.

Gold is found along the whole extent of Nova Scotia from Yarmouth to Cape Causeau, and in many places in the interior.—*Nova Scotia Paper*.

A statue of the late Count Cavour was solemnly inaugurated in one of the halls of the Bourse of Turin on the 29th ult.

The cold in the north of Spain is described as quite unusual. Great quantities of snow had fallen, and was deep on the ground.

The Crimea, like Finland, is menaced with a complete famine. Corn has been constantly sent from Odessa to Eupatoria and other towns in the Crimea since the month of August.

The number of workmen in the cotton-manufacturing districts of France out of employ is now said to amount to 300,000, without any prospect of being relieved from their state of absolute destitution.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has just established a consular station at Whydah, on the West Coast of Africa. Its agent will be accredited as Vice-Consul at the courts of the King of Dahomey and the King of Portonovo.

TREATMENT OF JEWS AT ROME.—The *Opinion Nationale* of Paris publishes an extraordinary edict of one of the Roman ecclesiastical authorities. It is an official "permission," granted under the most rigorous conditions, to a Jew, to visit Velletri, in the Papal States, for a certain brief space of time. The Jew is, among other restrictions, not to quit his lodging at night while in the town, and is not to speak in friendly or affectionate terms to any Christian.

WEST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.—The returns of the Coolie immigration into the West Indies from India during the season of 1861-62 are very satisfactory. The numbers were large; 10,880 persons were safely landed, 9,855 from Calcutta, and 1,025 from Madras; and the mortality on the passage has not been so low for seven years. In the three Madras ships the mortality was, as usual, small—only 1.44 per cent.; in the 27 ships from Calcutta it averaged 5.01 per cent., having been 8.54 in the previous year. Of the immigrants 5,207 went to British Guiana, 1,982 to Jamaica, 1,967 to Trinidad, 1,097 to Grenada, 320 to St. Lucia, and 307 to St. Vincent.

THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.—The *Monde* gives the following details relative to the works for restoring the cupola on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:—"The French architect and the one sent by Russia, a German by birth and a Protestant, have made a minute examination of the present state of the cupola. They have ascertained that all the wood-work is so worm-eaten, that at the first heavy squall of wind the top of the cupola might fall on the tomb of the Saviour. The architects propose in the first place to construct a provisional covering so as to protect the pilgrims and the clergy from any accident. As to the cupola itself, every one has been long agreed as to the necessity of its being completely rebuilt. The architects are of the same opinion, and it will, it is said, be constructed in bronze, and be terminated for Christmas next year."

THE NONCONFORMIST SETTLERS IN NEW ZEALAND.—The arrival of the first instalment of the Nonconformist special settlers appears to have been considered an important event for Auckland, a public welcome having been given to the passengers by the Matilda Wattenbach. The immigrants were all in excellent health and spirits, which may be attributed to the excellent arrangements made for their comfort during the voyage by Messrs. Shaw, Savill, and Co. The great proportion of them have gone up the Waitemata, and encamped near Lamb and Melvin's mill on their way to the Oruawharo block. Five bullock-teams from the commissariat having been secured, besides several teams of horses, the work of transporting the baggage to the block was being gone on with as speedily as possible. A smaller party have gone by Mangawai. Several of the emigrants have taken employment in town until such time as their services are required on their own settlement.—*New Zealand Examiner*.

GARIBALDI AT CAPRERA.—We read in the *Movimento* of Genoa:—"The Sardinia, having on board Garibaldi, has arrived at Caprera. The General's litter was lowered on to a boat, and thence removed on the shore. The General, who had not suffered

on the passage, beheld his rocks again with pleasure. The two medical attendants and M. Occhipinti carried the litter in their arms to the dwelling, and deposited it in the small room of the ground floor of the old house. Thus Garibaldi, after four months' troubles, again saw his dear Caprera. The servant most affected was Fruscianti, who had remained all this time at Caprera, and scarcely dared to hope ever again to see the General. It was at eight o'clock on the morning of the 22nd that the General re-entered his habitation. Towards ten o'clock, after the toilet and breakfast, the illustrious invalid requested that his litter might be transported outside and taken about the cultivated land, where it might be carried without too much shaking, desiring to revisit his fields, the vine and the olives, to which Fruscianti hyperbolically assigns the name of Olevibo. These walks in the warm air of Caprera have already greatly improved the physical and mental condition of Garibaldi, who congratulates himself on having decided to retire into solitude, where at least he can breathe the air freely. There was a little snow on the day he arrived, but now we have a mild autumnal temperature. The wound is better, and the foot is scarcely at all swollen. The rheumatic pains are now not felt. Christmas Day was celebrated near his bed. The snow and ice of the night allowed the preparation of some sherbet, certainly the first which has been drunk in the midst of these rocks."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

EAST KENT.—The nomination for the representation of East Kent took place on Monday on Barham Downs, near Canterbury. Sir E. C. Dering was nominated as a Liberal, and Sir Norton Knatchbull as a Conservative. The show of hands was declared to be in favour of Sir Norton Knatchbull. A poll was demanded for his opponent, and it was fixed to take place on Thursday. A very close contest is anticipated.

TOTNES.—Mr. John Dent has issued an address to the electors of Totnes. In compliance with the terms of the requisition presented to him, and which he states was signed by nearly half the constituency, he is again a candidate. Mr. Dent, with a view to counteract the Duke of Somerset's influence, has recently purchased an estate within the borough. Both he and Mr. Alfred Seymour are vigorously prosecuting their canvass.

EXETER.—Mr. John Duke Coleridge has issued his address to the electors of Exeter. In it he states that in consequence of Mr. Seymour's retirement from the contest and departure to Totnes, he no longer feels any delicacy in coming forward. He declares himself to be, as he has always been, a member of the great Liberal party, opposed to centralisation, in favour of the ballot, opposed to the unconditional abolition of Church-rates, but in favour of relieving Dissenters from them. He further adds that he approves of Lord Palmerston's policy, and will give that statesman a hearty but independent support. The Liberals have fixed upon Mr. Bowring, son of Sir John Bowring, of Chinese notoriety, an old Exonian, and a magistrate, as their second candidate.

THE NEW ELEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

(From the *Morning Star*.)

Is England to recognise the right of property in man? We do not mean by the acknowledgment of Southern independence. If the Confederates can make good their boast of invincibility, we must, of course, admit the fact of their separation from the Union and consent to receive their representatives. They will then be entitled to the same respect that we accord to the King of Dahomey and other sovereign masters of a slave-breeding soil. We cannot refuse to the auction-block at Richmond the measure that we mete out to the barracoons on the Niger. If the Devil were to set up a visible kingdom on earth, it must be recognised—though all decent people would give its ambassadors the scantiest possible entertainment. But recognition of the Confederacy need not in that case involve recognition of its peculiar laws and usages. It would be nothing to us but as a blot and scandal upon our common human nature that the Confederate constitution contained clauses making slavery co-extensive and coeval with the Confederacy itself. The men who are strong enough to make their own the Southern half of the North American continent must be left to work their will therein. But the question is, whether or no they shall be admitted to have the right of reclaiming from soil subject to the English flag negroes who have gone thither to enjoy the free exercise of their industry.

The question appears to be too extravagant for serious answer. Every English tongue would be ready with an indignant negative to the claim suggested. Every English memory would be fruitful in great maxims and glorious precedents, affirming the inviolability of the refuge that we offer to the fugitive from oppression. But we can assure the impartial reader that the question is not thus to be set aside. It has arisen in a very sober shape, and cannot be dismissed without a positive matter-of-fact reply. There are now some two hundred thousand free negroes on the American continent who were this time last year in abject bondage. They are free both in law and in fact. They have obtained their liberty by the chances of war, but it is secured to them by several distinct acts of legislation and magisterial authority. If it were not so—if the Federal and Confederate Governments were alike inimical to their freedom—they would be secure from reclamation by either power if they should succeed in crossing our Canadian frontier. But they have no wish to go to Canada. It is a long way off. It is an inclement climate to persons of tropical extraction. It is unsuited to their habits of life and labour. They are not accustomed to plough in frost and snow, nor to fell forest trees, nor to navigate timber rafts across inland seas and down great

There would be little chance of their living by servile and precarious labour in the frugal cities of a colony that contains but the population of one London spread over many England. There is the same objection to their settling in the Northern States of the Union. The prairie farmers, even more so than the English and Irish, do not like negroes either as helps or neighbours. The towns have as much unskilled labour as they want. Tens of thousands of coloured men are so comfortably settled in the Free States—as Mr. Adams was told by Lord Russell, on the authority of an agent from our West India colonies—that they have no desire to better themselves by emigration. Not so these additional two hundred thousand. They are as much American as they are African, but just now America has no place for them. By-and-by the congenial solitudes of Florida or of Texas may be assigned to them. A negro peasant proprietor may be planted in the vast plains of the South when the South is subdued to the law that consecrates a free soil to free labour throughout the Union. Meanwhile, what are they to do, and what is to be done with them? The Federal Government and the Northern people have the best of dispositions towards them, but their hands are grappling with a deadly enemy, and cannot take up their work of mercy. Three months ago Mr. Seward addressed himself to England on the subject. He proposed a convention, under which these poor people should be enabled to emigrate to our West India islands as free labourers. Congress was willing to find money and to provide for the strictly voluntary character of the emigration. Who would not have thought that England would have "jumped" at the proposal? Lancashire wants cotton—Jamaica wants labourers. Ever since the epoch of emancipation, we have heard of nothing so often and so loudly from our sugar-growing colonies as of the want of labour. The Anti-Slavery Society has had to keep watch over the immigration system lest Chinamen, Malays, or Africans should be entrapped into becoming slaves under the name of Coolies. The scheme of cotton culture in these colonies languishes only because the hands bear no proportion to the amount of suitable and unoccupied soil. Why, then, did not Lord Russell instantly close with Mr. Seward's proposal, or at least authorise the colonial Government to make their own terms with the United States? Because, as his lordship said Mr. Adams, the Government feared that "it might be the means of entangling them, in some way or other, with the difficulties in the United States, by possible reclamation of fugitives, or in some other way a danger which they were most desirous to avoid." As the convention proposed would have been with the United States Government, there would be no "possible reclamation of fugitives" from that quarter. It must be the Confederates of whom our Government stands in fear. The emigrants could be their property alone—and they only would have any interest in or any pretence to the reclamation of the fugitives. So that it is really, as we have said, a practical question whether or no England shall acknowledge the right of one human being to hold property in another? We are deeply ashamed to have to ask whether such a motive shall be allowed to continue to influence the action of this country or of its colonies. It is certain—a shameful certainty—that for the moment it does prevail over every consideration of interest, of humanity, and of honour. Lord Russell's answer to Mr. Adams embodied, it seems, the deliberate resolution of the Cabinet—for the Duke of Newcastle has communicated the same resolution to the Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica. The Duke's despatch has been laid before the two Houses of Assembly. We are glad to learn that a deep feeling had been excited thereby throughout the colony, and that a motion was about being made for the appointment of a Committee of Assembly on the subject. It will not be long before the mind of England finds expression on a matter that so closely touches the strongest of national sentiments. For once, at any rate, the West India interest will be on the same side with the friends of the negro; and the partisans of the Confederacy must be strong, indeed, to resist such a combination. It was but the other day that the negro John Anderson left this country for Liberia, after having run the gauntlet of a law process, conducted through our Canadian courts, at the instance of the United States Government, for his reclamation. In that case, the fugitive was claimed under extradition treaty, having slain his attempted captor. But the law and the sentiment of the whole British nation were at one in holding that killing is no murder when the life and liberty of an honest man are at stake. And our Government will soon be made to understand that if the whole four millions of American slaves could make their way to British soil they must be defended there, though the world were thundering at our gates a demand for their surrender.

M.P.'s. ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

On Thursday night, the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, attended the annual meeting of a friendly society at Oxford, and took advantage of the occasion to deliver a semi-political speech. He briefly reviewed the events of the year, and alluding to the cause of alarm which prevailed in January as to a war with America, in consequence of the Trent difficulty, he congratulated his audience on the attitude taken by the English Government on the American question generally. Passing from this subject to the cotton famine and the distress in Lancashire, he spoke in eloquent terms of the patience with which all classes of the community in the cotton districts had borne their sufferings, and then referred to the satisfactory state of the revenue, and the great development of trade arising from the fiscal policy of late years.

There was a great Conservative gathering at Newton Abbott, in Devonshire, on Thursday night, for the purpose of inaugurating a new Conservative Association. The chair was taken by Lord Courtenay, and speeches were made by Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Sir Lawrence Palk, M.P., Lord Courtenay, Lord Churston, and others. They of course indulged in the usual self-laudation, and spoke of the future victory of Conservatism as beyond all question. Sir Stafford Northcote praised the Conservative party as the bulwark of the constitution, and said that it had the confidence of the country.

He appealed to the great change which had come over the House of Commons—and in this his honourable friends Sir Lawrence Palk and Mr. Kekewich would bear him out—the great change which had come over the spirit of the House of Commons upon the questions with regard to which some years ago they had almost acknowledged themselves beaten. (Hear, hear.) He might select, particularly, the question of Church-rates, not because it was the only one, by any means, but because it was a striking instance of the way in which the party had rallied after an apparent defeat. Some years ago the vote upon Church-rates had been 60 or 70 against the party, but, by unwearied efforts, they had fought these majorities down to a minority. There were other questions which illustrated the same change. They had fought gallantly, and they had gone far to establish their right position in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) It could not be expected that all these questions would be settled at once; and he did not say that Church-rates was a question upon which no legislation would be necessary. It involved great considerations, and many thought it was necessary to make some further arrangements with regard to it. He dared say that might be so in time; but it would be most disastrous to settle it at a time when the majority was pledged to destroy the Church. (Loud applause.) His advice was that they should not be in a hurry with such questions; let them get a majority first, and then that majority would deal with this and other questions in the true Conservative spirit of endeavouring to amend what required amendment.

He was not so great a believer in Lord Palmerston's Conservatism as some people were, but he was a believer in Lord Palmerston's sagacity. (Laughter and applause.) He knew that if to a great extent the Premier tried to calm or moderate the impetuosity of some of his followers, and possibly of some of his colleagues, and if he appeared disposed to adopt prudent and conservative measures, it was owing in a great degree to those 300 gentlemen whom he had the advantage of contemplating on the benches of the Opposition. (Loud applause.)—Sir Lawrence Palk, M.P., thought they had to thank Lord Derby, Mr. Disraeli, and Sir Stafford Northcote, the great leaders of their party (applause), for the very judicious course which was adopted, for he believed it had laid the foundation for a triumph of the Conservative party at a no very distant period.—Mr. Kekewich, M.P., also responded, and made some humorous remarks on the state of parties in the House of Commons. It was thought by many that the two parties were in the position of two hostile armies arrayed on each side of the House. This was not the case; they had a great many elements in those parties. He hoped he was a true, honest, and faithful Conservative,—an advocate for safe, steady, sure progress, as opposed to rash innovations and chimerical changes. (Cheers.)

Postscript.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1863.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

(From the Times Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

The President has not signed the bill for the admission of Western Virginia as a separate State. The Conservative party is using all its pressure to induce him to veto it.

The Republicans insist that the President must and will adhere to his emancipation policy, and that he will issue a new proclamation in that sense on the 1st of January. The Democratic party asserts, on the contrary, that he will take further time to consider.

The position of the Federal armies in the South-West is exciting apprehension. The Confederates have recaptured the town of Holly Spring, and destroyed 200 wagons, cotton, commissariat stores, ammunition, &c., valued at 500,000 dolars, and burned Union City. The Federals state their loss at Holly Spring at 200 killed and wounded, and 150 taken prisoners. In a raid upon Memphis, the Confederates carried off 100 cattle and 180 mules. A force of 7,000 Confederates is reported to be advancing upon Columbus, their original stronghold on the Mississippi. It is supposed that the Confederates will make an effort to crush the army of General Rosecranz at Nashville, Tennessee, and recover that place, and defeat General Grant's campaign against Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi. General Grant is already so situated that he cannot send an order twenty miles in any direction from his own camp.

No change has occurred in the position of affairs on the Rappahannock.

General Foster's army has returned to Newburn. The results of its four victories, in which it sustained heavy losses, has been the destruction of a portion of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and telegraph, and of a large amount of private property.

Intelligence from Key West states that more than fifty large vessels of the Banks' expedition had been seen passing into the Gulf.

A large steamer, with a full freight of supplies for the Confederate Government, is reported by the Richmond papers to have entered Charleston, South Carolina.

Thirty-nine out of the 300 Sioux Indians imprisoned at Dakota, Minnesota, are to be hung to-day, and fears are entertained that the whites who will witness the execution may break open the prison, and Lynch the remainder. The Colonel commanding the post has invoked the aid of the citizens to maintain the law.

December 27.
The Confederates have abandoned Winchester, in the Shenandoah Valley, and retired upon Stanton. They tore up the rails between the two places, and carried off the iron.

The *Philadelphia Press* publishes the retaliatory proclamation of Jefferson Davis. Butler and all officers to be hanged if taken. The soldiers to be paroled. Negroes taken in arms, and Federal officers found with slaves, are also to be hanged.

The Confederates have captured Glasgow, Kentucky.

(Per Reuter's Telegrams.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.

President Davis is in Tennessee, supposed to be maturing a plan for the capture of Nashville.

It is reported that President Lincoln will veto the bill for the admission of Western Virginia as a new State.

The *New York Herald* urges Governor Seymour to call a convention of loyal States, and issue an invitation to the rebellious States to join the convention, and establish peace upon the platform of the United States constitution.

A steamer heavily freighted ran the blockade into a Southern port on the 19th.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (Morning).

The Confederates have evacuated Winchester, Virginia, and have moved towards Staunton. The Federals have occupied Winchester. The Confederates have destroyed the Winchester railroad, and carried away the iron.

The Federals have destroyed the Confederate works at Yellville, Arkansas.

It is supposed that President Lincoln will carry out his promise of issuing his emancipation proclamation on the 1st of January, excepting from its provisions Delaware, Missouri, Maryland, Kentucky, and portions of Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

The *New York Tribune* asserts that coloured regiments will be organised to guard the banks of the Mississippi, and to man the forts below New Orleans, and others to enforce the emancipation proclamation among the negroes.

NAPLES, Jan. 5.

Yesterday evening some individuals belonging to the lower class of the population endeavoured to get up a demonstration, and raised cries hostile to the Government. About fifteen of them were arrested, among whom were two curates, some priests, and a colonel formerly in the Bourbon service. Documents were found upon the latter relating to a revolutionary conspiracy. A petard was thrown down and exploded near the house of the General of the National Guard, but without doing any damage. The population remained perfectly quiet.

TURIN, Jan. 5 (Evening).

A circular of the Minister of the Interior, published to-day, directs the Prefects to push forward the formation of 220 battalions of the mobilised National Guard, and not to defer it later than the 20th inst., at which date all the operations necessary for carrying out this measure will have been completed.

MADRID, Jan. 5 (Evening).

In to-day's sitting of the Congress a bill was introduced by the Government for modifying the customs' tariff on iron, cotton, and other articles. The news that some high functionaries intend tendering their resignation is confirmed. It is asserted that Senor Coello y Quesada, Spanish Minister at Brussels, has sent in his resignation. Marshal O'Donnell has received fresh proofs of the confidence placed in him by the Queen.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN GAOLS.—On Monday a discussion on this subject took place at the Worcester-shire court of quarter sessions. The Earl of Dudley presided, and there was a very full bench of magistrates. Ultimately a committee was appointed to inquire. The feeling seems to prevail that Roman Catholic priests should be admitted as a matter of course to visit the prisoners of their creed. At present they are only admitted when specially asked for by a prisoner.

THE AMERICAN GIFT TO LANCASHIRE.—A letter has been received by Messrs. Thomas Fielden and William S. Stoll, of Manchester, and Mr. Frank Crossley, M.P., from the New York Lancashire Relief Committee, appointing them a committee to distribute the supplies of provisions which are to be sent by the George Griswold and other vessels. The New York committee express a hope that the ships laden with contributions for the relief of the distress will be freed from all harbour dues and port charges. It would, indeed, be discreditable if they were subjected to any such exactions.

ANOTHER CLERICAL FORGER.—A clergyman, the Rev. Joseph Wood, of Clayton-le-Moors, near Blackburn, is in custody, charged with forgery. He was the president of a local friendly society, and 400*l.* of its funds were given to him to invest with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. He subsequently produced a receipt, purporting to be from the commissioners, for the sum of 400*l.* It now appears, on his own acknowledgment, that he only sent 200*l.* and forged the receipt for 400*l.* He is remanded previous to being committed for trial.

MARK LANE.—THIS DAY.

A very moderate supply of English wheat was received fresh up to this morning's market. Dry samples sold freely, at fully Monday's advance of 1*s.* per quarter; but damp produce commanded very little attention. The supply of foreign wheat was large. Nearly all descriptions were in fair average request, and Monday's currency was well supported. Floating cargoes of grain changed hands to a fair extent, at full quotations.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“A Nonconformist.”—Declined.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1863.

SUMMARY.

WITHIN less than a month Parliament will re-assemble. Thus far, there is every indication of a quiet session. The Conservative leaders have been unusually reticent during the recess. Mr. Disraeli is sojourning at Torquay, and though a Conservative demonstration took place last week within a few miles of that charming watering-place, he could not be induced to attend. Sir Stafford Northcote was the chief spokesman on the occasion, and while glorying in the success of his party last session, especially because they were able to throw out the Church-rates Abolition Bill by a majority of one, he declared that it was owing to the Conservatives that England was not living under a republic or a despotism. Such a claim is really puerile. What would England have been if the many great reforms of the last quarter of a century—which were all strenuously opposed by the Conservatives—had not been carried? Sir Stafford as a party leader affects to fear Lord Palmerston's reforming tendencies, but Sir Norton Knatchbull, the thorough-going Tory candidate for East Kent, has no such suspicions. He says that Lord Palmerston is the best man to be Prime Minister, and that whoever would “factiously turn him out is no friend to his country.”

In this remark by an hereditary Tory, we may read the probable character of the coming session. There will no doubt be a great hubbub about the surrender of the Ionian Islands and the non-recognition of the new Slave Power, but, in the most vulnerable features of their policy, Ministers have the prospect of an easy triumph. Spite of the paralysis in Lancashire, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has a surplus of income over expenditure at the end of the year to the amount of a million and a quarter, will be enabled to rejoice in many retrenchments; and will, it is stated, propose a reduction of the income-tax to 7d. in the pound. Mr. Disraeli must, perforce, accept a boon which he has long been demanding. If the present Government cannot be assailed either in their finance, or their foreign policy, Sir N. Knatchbull's sentiment must be generally acquiesced in, and the Opposition continue to subsist on the traditions of the past, and the possibilities of the distant future.

Lord Palmerston deserves great credit for his recognition of meritorious service with distinctions too much monopolised by the military and legal professions. Six new baronets are to be created—including Mr. W. Brown, the munificent founder of the Liverpool Museum; Mr. Frank Crossley, whose magnificent gift to Halifax will not be forgotten; Mr. David Baxter, who has conferred like benefits on his native town of Dundee, and Sir Daniel Cooper, the foremost representative of Australian interests in the mother country. These honours are a slight but becoming recognition of the debt of gratitude that England owes to men who have generously made their own success in life the means of conferring blessings upon their fellow-countrymen.

The most interesting feature of the last meeting of the Lancashire Central Relief Committee was the discussion that followed upon Mr. Farnall's report showing a steady and gratifying decrease of pauperism in the cotton districts. The general conclusions of the gentlemen who took part in it were, that, during the present

year, we shall be receiving from other countries, apart from America, 45 per cent. of the ordinary supply of cotton, or at the rate of 21,000 bales a week; that this supply will enable the mills to work at least half time; and that in prospect of the uncertainties of the future, it is desirable that the relief fund, which has now accumulated to half a million, should be carefully husbanded.

The newly-formed Emancipation Society is actively eliciting public opinion in this country. Some five thousand of the operatives of Manchester who are suffering solely from the American war, cordially adopted an address to President Lincoln approving of his anti-slavery policy. It is remarkable that this significant demonstration, which has extorted the applause of the *Paris Temps* as the most striking event of the day, has not been so much as noticed by the *Times*. Indeed, since the Federal defeat at Fredericksburg, the leading journal has begun to defend slavery from Scripture, and to throw the blame of the evils inseparable from it, not upon those who declare with the *Richmond Examiner* that the lot of the negro can never be changed, but upon the abolitionists. According to the unblushing argument of the *Times* of yesterday, it is doubtful whether Frederick Douglass and Sella Martin were not violating Scripture in escaping from their fate as live-stock in the Southern States; and in that base and cowardly spirit which that paper ever exhibits in siding with the strong against the weak—with might against right—it is the poor victim, not his hard-hearted master, that is brought to the bar of public opinion.

The Federal defeat at Fredericksburg has proved a crushing blow to that section of the Republican party which advocates anti-slavery views, and the fanatical effusions of their supporters in the press are helping to turn Northern opinion still more against them. Mr. Lincoln has emphatically refused to remove Mr. Seward from office at the demand of the Republican Senators, who believe he has embraced the Democratic creed. It is supposed that the President's emancipation proclamation will be modified so as to exclude all the Border States, except Virginia, from its operation, and that Mr. Lincoln will veto the bill for recognising Western Virginia as a separate State. The Southern press laughs at the emancipation scheme contained in his Message, and once more proclaims that it is the Creator's will that the negro shall be a slave. President Davis, however, does not make light of the Northern anti-slavery policy, having issued a retaliatory proclamation threatening to hang General Butler and his officers who have emancipated slaves around New Orleans, and to hang all negroes found in arms against the Confederates, with their white officers. Perhaps the *Times* will next endeavour to prove that Mr. Davis's sanguinary edict is justified by Scripture!

“Nobody is in fault,” is the practical verdict on the fearful butchery at Fredericksburg. There has been a Congressional inquiry, at which General Franklin emphatically said:—“I would like to impress as firmly upon the committee as it is impressed upon my mind the fact that this whole disaster has resulted from the delay in the arrival of the pontoon bridges. Whoever is responsible for that delay is responsible for all the disasters which have followed.” But it cannot be ascertained who is culpable, and, consequently, no one is censured or punished. General Burnside, however, has come forward to take upon himself the entire responsibility for the operations connected with the late battle, but it is generally understood that he acted under the conviction that an engagement must be fought at any cost.

In the Western States there are signs that the Federals are losing ground again, and that the strategy of President Davis will more than compensate for the numerical inferiority of the Confederates. “Divide and conquer” is his motto—a policy peculiarly capable of being carried out in so vast a territory. Whether the proposed employment of negro regiments in the West will help the Federal cause remains to be seen. But in a few weeks there is likely to be a great struggle for the possession of Vicksburg, now the key of the Mississippi.

Last night's *Gazette* contains a document such as never before appeared in the official organ of the British Government. We refer to the Hon. H. Elliot's “Memorandum” to the Provisional Government of Greece, promising to recommend to the legislature of the Ionian Islands their union with the neighbouring kingdom, on condition that a prince shall be elected to the vacant throne from whom her Majesty's Government “can expect a regard for religious liberty, a respect for constitutional freedom, and a sincere love of peace.” There is at present no indication whom the Greeks will choose to rule over them—the National Assembly being in no haste to come to a decision on a question of so much delicacy and importance.

A GLANCE INTO THE YEAR.

Mist, mist, mist! We can see but a little way before us, and what we do see is so indistinct, so wanting in definite outline, as to be comparatively valueless. Of course, all that is future is also uncertain—all, we mean, that belongs to the domain of contingency. But uncertainty has its degrees, ranging from the highest grounds of probability to the deep places which border upon the impossible. Some years dawn upon us with a remarkably clear atmosphere through which we may catch a glimpse of the great distinctive features of the scenes through which our road will lie. We discern some of the hills over which we are about to pass, or look down into the vale into which we shall descend. The signs of the sky give warning of the kind of weather we shall encounter, and present circumstances cast a light far ahead of us upon the probable future. But the year 1863 opens with no such indications, no such premonitions. Clouds settle down upon the prospect. We can but guess, and may guess very incorrectly, even the direction in which affairs will take us—and we should be filled with apprehension but for the assured belief that our times are in the hands of One whose Government ever moves onward to the accomplishment of great and beneficial designs.

Mist, mist, mist! Whither are we tending? The present is all confusion—how, then, can we infer from it anything that is likely to come. That which now is gives less warrant than usual that it will be found still existing at the end of the year. All quarters of the globe exhibit the same ripeness for change, but of what sort no seer can confidently predict. China, Japan, Turkey, in the East—the once United States of America, in the West—France, Italy, Prussia, Austria, Greece, and, last but not least, Russia, in Europe—all are passing through some stage, more or less marked, more or less advanced, towards that political crisis which we term revolution. All are rocked by internal volcanic convulsions. No doubt, at the end of the year, each will still remain a nation—but what of their dynasties, their governments, their political constitutions, their international relations, the things, in fact, which give to each of them a distinct and organic being? Can any one judge, from the agencies already at work upon them, in what form they will exist twelve months hence? We do not allude to the common liabilities to change to which all States are necessarily and normally exposed. We may discover in each of them special elements rendering them more than usually susceptible of critical experiences—and whether 1863 will hurl them into temporary political chaos, or only help to mature within them the germs of revolution, or will so strengthen their better tendencies as to give them more reliable securities for the future, the present does little in any case, nothing in most cases, to indicate to the most observant.

Even with regard to our own country, there is still a preponderance of mist—not so thick, it is true, as that which envelopes the future of many lands—not altogether unpierced by gleams of light sufficient to enforce patience and to awaken hope—but mist, nevertheless. At this moment one whole department of our manufacturing industry, a chief object heretofore of our national pride, the most copious of all the sources of our national wealth—is utterly paralysed, and the half-million of people dependent upon it for all that they possessed, subsist upon the charity of their sympathising fellow-countrymen. Will that paralysis prove, in part or in whole, beyond the reach of recovery? Are we to look forward to a few months only, or to long years, of suffering and depression? Must half the patient victims of this terrible infliction seek refuge from their distress in colonial homes? Will cotton in sufficient quantities reach us from other places than the Southern States? Will it come in time to save this branch of manufacture from ruin? Who can tell? And if it do not, what will become of the immense capital invested in this single interest? What effect will the annihilation of perhaps the bulk of it have upon the general condition of the empire? In this, as in all similar contingencies, there are those who pipe to us and those who mourn—men who hope the best, and men who predict the worst. Upon neither can we rely—we can only be certain of this—that we are passing through a dark valley the outlet of which not one of us can clearly see.

And then our politics—our politics, forsooth! have we any politics? Can any man lay down with an approach to precision what are the present predominant political sentiments of the people of England? or from what now exists deduce any probable inference as to what will be likely to exist twelve months hence? Are we Conservatives or Reformers? Is the tendency of the public mind towards retroaction or progression? Three years since we were all intent upon an amendment of our representative system—is there any serious concern for it

still? We used to pride ourselves upon our anti-slavery principles—but who shall say whether there is at this moment more sympathy with a Confederacy founded for the perpetuation and extension of slavery, or with the Republic from which on that account, and for that purpose, it seceded? Lately, we were on the eve of abolishing Church-rates—what is the public determination on that question now? Do we even care much for economy? Are we not wasting millions sterling on fortifications? Are we mainly a commercial or a military people? Are we resolved to rule the Church or to let the Church rule us? What are our principles? What is our faith? In what direction socially, politically, or religiously are we tending? Just now, all seems to be confusion—a wavering, eddying, boiling mist. Or, to change the figure, we are at sea, with a discordant crew, without chart, compass, or rudder, and driven about hither and thither by winds and currents which we have lost the power of making subservient to our intelligence and will.

But, courage! The mists will clear off as we advance. We can see enough to discern the path of duty. They will be safest, after all, who guide themselves by the old principles which, although no longer fashionable, can never decay. Nations, like individuals, have their seasons of blank indifference—get tired of what is old, and careless of what is new. And when nations are thus heart-weary and listless, they would rather be pleasantly cajoled, than wisely and righteously governed. Now is the harvest time for jesters and jobbers—political acrobats and jugglers—dexterous and smiling necromancers, who can entice coin from your pockets, and make you laugh at their adroitness. But it will not be so always. The lassitude which dislikes everything but that with which it can be amused, will give place to a more manly vigour. England, we trust, is not likely just yet to sink into dotage—for she has a great work to do, and our confidence is that she will do it. To that she has been trained by Divine Providence, and she cannot, if she would, evade it. But whether she will recover her old political vitality during the progress of 1863, we must leave to be declared by the event.

THE EMPEROR'S NEW YEAR SALUTATION.

THE response of the Emperor Napoleon to the diplomatic body resident in Paris, from whom it is customary for him to receive a visit of ceremonious respect on New Year's day, has latterly been listened for by political *guidnunes*, as settling the question whether there is to be peace or war in Europe during the following twelvemonths. Too much attention has been paid to, and too implicit a confidence has been placed in, "the voice of the oracle." However, as it is pretty well understood that nearly all the States of Europe are more anxious to maintain than to endanger friendly international relations, and as, when the French Emperor speaks he utters the active will of France, the nations draw their breath more freely, and commerce ventures more boldly upon its enterprises, if his language of compliment is also pacific in its character. It is taken for granted that it expresses the present policy of France, if it will stand good for nothing more, and that the immediate situation is one the horizon of which is clear from threatening indications of an approaching storm. To this extent it is, perhaps, to be depended upon. Credit is reasonably given to the Emperor for having truly disclosed his own intentions, as well as stated the conclusion he derives from sagacious observation. It is obvious enough to all that, within a month or two, events may occur which will expose the peace of Europe to imminent peril—that the mood of Napoleon III. may change—that headstrong monarchs or foolish statesmen may throw everything out of gear—and that death may in an instant alter the entire aspect of European affairs—but, it is undoubtedly pleasant to receive, as we have done this year, from the Sovereign usually regarded as the most capable of doing mischief, an assurance that he has no expectation that peace will be interrupted.

The pleasant view of things oracularly indicated by a terse Imperial phrase, is certainly corroborated by the most cursory, as well as the most penetrating, independent observation. To begin with France. It may suit the views of certain moon-stricken or interested alarmists at home, to represent her as cherishing an undying hate of this country, and her Sovereign as keenly on the watch for a fair opportunity of rushing into collision with us, for which he is incessantly preparing a much greater naval force than the need of France can require. In opposition to these clamorous outbursts of apprehension, we really need do nothing more than array the un-

doubted facts of the case. The Napoleonic throne is not so securely based, either upon tradition or upon the respect and affections of the intelligent classes, as to render a collision with us at all safe, except on the hypothesis that it shall be perfectly triumphant. Frenchmen of the present generation are commercially disposed—and although they have submitted to two or three wars, they have looked on without any great excitement, and with a reserve of sullen disapproval. No doubt, national vanity and resentment might be skilfully played upon, so far, at least, as to admit of a sudden war with Great Britain—but if in the course of such war the Imperial forces, whether by sea or land, should sustain a serious disaster, the rule of Napoleon would not be worth ten days' purchase. The fact is, the French people are well convinced that their substantial interests do not lie in the way of hostilities with England—that there is no real question to be thereby settled—and that all the sources of present prosperity would be needlessly disturbed, and, perhaps, permanently exhausted. And as they are not intent upon throwing Europe into confusion, so neither is their Emperor. He has made himself a name—he has won the laurels of a successful commander—he has raised his country to a foremost position in Europe—and he has sufficiently strained its financial capacity to awaken in his own mind some uneasiness. He has never since his accession given us room to suspect the sincerity of his desire to be on friendly terms with us—on the contrary, he has over and over again shamed our suspicion by overtures which left no doubt of his good-will.

Possibly, moreover, the observant mind of Napoleon has caught sight of the truth, so difficult for a Frenchman to learn, that nations may gain much more valuable and enduring influence by the exercise of their moral qualities in the management of their international relations than by showy, pretentious, and expensive interference. At this moment, the name of France excites little gratitude and no reverence in Italy, notwithstanding the freedom with which she spent her money and shed her blood in the Lombardian campaign—while that of England, who had nothing to give to Italians but her sympathy, but who gave it freely and continuously, commands unbounded confidence. In the little kingdom of Greece, where we have stood aloof from all diplomatic intrigues, a prince of our Royal Family is selected with enthusiasm for the vacant throne, in sheer reliance on the constitutional sincerity to be expected from any son of Queen Victoria. Fussiness, in truth, usually fails of its object in the long run. The hand that is everywhere seen and felt undoes much of its own work—and men are less grateful for being officiously taken care of than for being encouraged to take care of themselves. French diplomacy has been far too meddling a thing to succeed in building up a stable edifice of international pre-eminence—and in this, as well as in other senses, the Emperor may be shrewd enough to have observed that peace has more remunerative victories than war.

Be this as it may, Napoleon III. has given Europe ground of hope for another year of peace. We earnestly trust he may not have been mistaken. Italy, tired of waiting in the ante-chamber of her protector, and receiving all manner of courteous rebuffs, has given up all thought of Rome as a favour to be won from France, and has gone with a will to her proper work—that, namely, of reorganising and consolidating her present possessions. There is a talk of bad blood and threatening words between Prussia and Austria—let us hope that as German resentment moves but slowly, it will die away before it has found leisure to develop itself. The American contest is surely enough for the world, without having in the same year the horrors of war on the Eastern as well as the Western continent. Thankful for our own exemption, let us, as wise men, enjoy the fruits of it. We have been under a war expenditure for some years past. We are encouraged to hope that the income-tax may sink down next session to peace proportions, and that our people may go about their business undismayed by war prophecies, and uncrippled by war taxation. The Emperor Napoleon has given out the text. May all the States of Europe expound and improve it! So shall A.D. 1863, albeit it will be undoubtedly a year of heavy trial for most of them, ourselves among the number, run its course without adding largely to that national debt which retribution inevitably exacts of crime.

OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

THE presence of the Japanese Ambassadors in Europe during the past year raised hopes of more intimate relations with that unique empire in the East, which are not likely to be realised. While these "intelligent foreigners" were inspect-

ing our International Exhibition, and visiting the various European Courts, with ostentatious friendliness, the elements of revolution were working in Japan; and on their arrival at Jeddo they will find the Regent dead who sent them forth on their embassy, the power of the Tycoon greatly curtailed, and the seat of the Executive Government transferred to Miko, the interior capital, where the titular Emperor of Japan resides. If the peculiar dual Government, established two centuries ago, is not abrogated, it is rudely shaken. The revolution appears to have been effected in the interest of the Daimios, the great landed aristocracy of the country, who have hitherto been hostile to that intercourse with foreigners which has of late years made so much seeming progress. The decree which restores Miko as the capital of the empire, and reduces Jeddo to a second-rate town, affects too many material interests to be easily acquiesced in. "It seems more likely," says the *Japan Herald*, published at Yokohama, where the European embassies are at present located, "that some popular outbreak may take place which may prove the spark to light up a civil war." Under these critical circumstances, the position of the European representatives and settlers in Japan becomes uncertain, if not precarious; and possibly ere long the foreign Powers which have exacted various privileges from the Japanese may have to ask themselves—whether what they have extorted is worth fighting for.

The nominal opening of Japan to European commerce has unquestionably disappointed expectation. Neither Russia, Holland, France, nor England has gained much by the treaties conceded to them by the Tycoon. Such commercial intercourse as there is has been carried on against the will of the ruling power, and the various embassies have been exposed to continual danger from the antipathy of the feudal lords, who have seen in external commerce the precursor of revolution. Those extended markets which, it was predicted, would be found among the twenty millions of Japanese, have proved to be a delusion. The people do not want our goods. They can supply everything, including cotton fabrics, cheaper, if not better, than we can. In a lecture delivered a few days ago at Leeds, Sir R. Alcock, our consul in Japan, stated that this intelligent people had advanced in material civilisation to an extent scarcely inferior to our own. In the applied sciences, in steam machinery, &c., they are far behind Europeans, but some of the results of skilled labour in silk and textile fabrics, in lacquer, metals, and porcelain, will bear comparison with those of any other nation. If foreign intercourse is continued new wants may, in course of time, be created. But a trade yet to be made must be of slow growth. After all, "you may take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink."

After the lecture referred to, an interesting discussion took place, which helps us to a conclusion as to the attitude England ought to assume in relation to Japan. Mr. Baines, M.P., manfully took exception to Sir R. Alcock's doctrine that no nation had a right to refuse intercourse with foreigners, and contended that while we have a perfect right to offer every inducement to other nations to enter into commercial relations, yet as Christians and as just men we cannot sanction the doctrine that we have a right, at the point of the sword, to force ourselves into intercourse with other countries, contrary to their will. Sir Rutherford, without justifying the abstract right of interference, said he simply wished to show the actual position of affairs. "They had forced themselves upon the Japanese; they had begun by force, and if they wished for commerce they must establish it by force. If they did not wish for commerce at that price, then they should be consistent, and withdraw from the Japanese empire."

This is a plain alternative, which deserves to be well considered in this country, before England is committed by her Government to a policy from which it will be impossible hereafter to recede. Do we wish to enforce in Japan treaty rights secured, if not by actual force, at least by imposing demonstrations? Are we willing to repeat in Japan the unjustifiable and cruel policy pursued in China, which has cost us countless treasure, and been the means indirectly of hopelessly destroying the Government of that country? There, we have had, for a century past, large commercial interests at stake. But in Japan our trade is fortuitous and capable only of slow extension. Why, then, draw the sword to enforce claims that are of little or no value, and to establish an intercourse that can only come, according to appearance, as the result of the destruction of the Japanese Government?

We freely admit that in their relations with the Tycoon, since the signing of the Elgin treaty, our Government have been circumspect and forbearing. They have not been in haste to exact full treaty rights, and have been slow to resent unquestionable outrages. But the events

now occurring in Japan make it more necessary than ever that our policy there shall be strictly defined. There is far more reason to fear from the indiscretion and extra-official acts of our representatives, than from the action of the Home Government. A Bowring, in the belief that his offence will be condoned and defended, may easily embroil us with this nation in the troublous times that seem impending, unless our Foreign Office hold a tight rein over official proceedings. It is to be remembered that the Dutch carried on a very extensive trade with Japan, until they began to mix themselves up with the politics of the country, when they and all foreigners were, for the succeeding two centuries, rigorously excluded from the empire.

It may be that internal revolution in Japan will eventually tend to break down that feudalism which is the great obstacle to foreign intercourse. In that event the alleged desire of the population in general for external commerce would have free scope. But if the Daimios consolidate their power, the cry for the exclusion of foreigners may be again raised, in which case wisdom, as well as higher considerations, would suggest the withdrawal from a country intercourse with which has yielded no substantial advantage. The folly of embroiling ourselves with the Japanese on a doubtful point of honour, and for imaginary advantages, is thus forcibly stated by the *Daily News*:—"The last China expedition would be nothing compared with a Japanese war. Instead of the rusty jingalls, bows and arrows, and swords apparently made out of iron hoops, which were scattered so plentifully about the Taku Forts, we should meet arms scarcely, if anything, inferior to those employed by our own soldiers. Instead of a population regulated by its own immediate local interests, unwarlike in its habits, and ready to trade with the invader, we should find one vast camp of men, among whom fortitude is the highest virtue, who visit the craven in their ranks with a swift doom, and who would effectually prevent trade by driving back all the inhabitants from spots which might be occupied by the foreigner."

COMPENSATIONS.

CROSSING one of the bridges which span the Thames a few nights since, we fell in with that *rara avis*—a new sensation. It must have been nearly nine o'clock. A dense fog hung over the river. The lamps, shorn of their beams, just sufficed to make the darkness visible. No footfall, save our own, and no roll of approaching wheels, broke the stillness, nor any sound save the splash of the tide against the piers of the bridge, and the distant hum of traffic on either bank of the river. Suddenly a voice leaped out of the darkness, and these words smote our ear:—"Bring forth the blind people that have eyes." The words were spoken in a quiet, and, truth to tell, a somewhat sing-song, tone. None the less, they produced a strange weird impression which it would not be easy to describe. Had they sounded out of an Apocalyptic "trumpet" they could hardly have struck us with greater astonishment. It was as if the darkness had suddenly found a voice, and uttered itself in a congenial paradox. Swinging round to discover whence the mysterious voice proceeded, we found, sitting on the stone seat of the recess we were unconsciously passing, a poor blind man—there was nothing strikingly angelic in his appearance—his Bible on his knees, following with quick sensitive finger the words with which of old time Isaiah had shaken the hearts of the Congregation of Israel. The mystery was explained. The thick darkness of the fog had hidden one of the common sights of the bridge, and invested one of its common sounds with a strange spiritual power. The poor fellow has sat there many a day reading the Inspired Word—Wisdom, through his mouth, uttering her voice in the streets, and no man regarding it. For once, by grace of the fog, we had been compelled to regard it. That was all.

And yet not all. For as we went on our way, the words followed us. "Bring forth the blind that have eyes"; why, here was, in some sort, an illustration of the paradox; the reader, out of his very darkness, throwing light on the scripture which he read. Here, while we were groping our way through the fog, was a blind man who, in comparison with us, had eyes; who, let the darkness frown never so blackly and the fog gather in its densest folds, could pursue his ordinary avocation undisturbed; who, like poor Nydia in Bulwer's striking romance, seemed to come into the full possession of his faculties just when other men were deprived of theirs! Here, in short, was one to whom, if there were no longer any day, there was also no longer any night: if for the one half of his time he suffered a sad and unusual privation, during the other, perhaps the longer half, he was

exempted from a common privation, and exempted by the development of a faculty which but for his special personal disability would never have been evoked.

All men whose work is mainly of the brain are glad to meet with such an incident as this, no matter how trivial it be, so that it be suggestive. And having met, they are apt to play, with it; to give it the freedom of the mind, and let it wander hither and thither, in and out, at its own sweet will, linking itself to whatever other thoughts and fancies it affects. With the instinct of all our tribe, we suffered this new-comer to creep into "the study of our imagination": and, as it entered, it also found a voice. By way of salute it began—"This poor fellow whom you have often pitied, and whom just now you are half disposed to envy—has he no word for you? Even your little share of 'the heavy and the weary weight of all this unintelligible world' sometimes seems more than you can bear. Let him serve at least to remind you of the compensations of life, the sweet uses of every adverse chance, the subtle links which bind all the ills of life to good. See, in this heavy and darkened air you can barely find your path; he reads his book as though the sun were shining in the heavens. He can never again behold the light; but he is independent of the light, while you are its slave." And so this very familiar spirit went on, taking a somewhat unfair advantage of every stumble, and pelting us with morals at every step.

Still there is a good deal to be said on that side of the case, a good deal which every man needs to say to himself as he enters on each successive "downward tract of time." There are subtle and most merciful limits bounding the ills of life, and conducting us through these narrow straits to larger good. There are compensations in every lot. Not only will "every winter change to spring," and every spring to the high noon of God's eternal summer; but every spring is visited by airs of summer, and in every winter, though often hidden beneath the snows which preserve as well as hide them, lie the germs of all that makes the bounty and the promise of spring. If we are of the "blind who have eyes," if, as we look out on the dark mystery of human life, we accept such lights as break the darkness, we shall see that present evil brings present good, as well as speaks of larger good to come. The storms that strew our coasts with wrecks carry beneath their broad wings healthful air-currents, without which all nature would languish. The frost, that strips the fields of their green array, and hushes the music of the babbling brooks, has uses and beauties of its own: it comes only when the harvest has been gathered in, and comes to plough the fields, to break up and cleanse the clods, and so prepare them to yield yet another harvest. In things evil there is a *soul* of good; and the soul is more, and more enduring, than the evil body. What greater evil than war? And yet even war may rouse a whole nation to higher aims than mere traffic contemplates, and convert the foe into a hero. What more terrible than famine? And yet, as our recent experience has taught us, famine itself may draw out the noblest moral qualities in its victims, and qualities only less noble in their neighbours. So true is it that—

As Night brings out stars
So Sorrow brings out truths,

that almost every man will confess his most precious experiences and acquisitions, those in which he most trusts to guide and enrich him in the future, to be the gifts of Adversity. Pearls of price are only to be got by selling at least much that we have. We cannot see the stars till we can see nothing else. Like the poor man on the bridge, we are blind; and it is only as the darkness gathers round us that we develop an unsuspected faculty, and find that though blind we see. Or, like Milton, we close our eyes, labour and sorrow compelling us, on the common earth, with its passing shows, to open them on an ampler and eternal heaven, and to walk beneath the boughs of a Paradise whose leaves do not wither and fall.

Blind men, however, do not learn to see at once; it takes time; it takes much wise training, much patient endeavour. The compensations which always come with the evils of our lot, do not always come as quickly, or we cannot so quickly discover them. The smart of the pain makes us insensible to that which medicines the pain, or to the medicinal property of the pain itself. We feel the stormy wind, and mark its devastations, before, and more keenly, than the vivifying atmospheric change it brings. The cold frost strikes more sharply and immediately on our senses than its bracing invigorating effects; and we must wait till spring, nay, through summer, to the farther verge of autumn, before we

can gather up all its gifts. The bark of our hopes goes down in the gale; and in our dismay we cannot see that the trifles with which we had laden it are being changed, by a divine alchemy, into something rich and strange: even when we do suspect it, it takes time and labour before we can recover our treasure, and then more time and labour before we can convert it into current coin. Patience, then,—patience and courage.

Let us bear the burthen of our weeks,
But turn our burthen into gain.

How far we owed this train of thought to the "familiar spirit," the inward voice which accosted us, and how far it was found lying about "the study" into which we admitted it, 'twere hard to tell. But, on one point we are clear. When at last we had ensconced ourselves in the train which was to carry us some few miles into the country, no sooner did the engine give its first shriek, than our visitor rose, as if such discord were altogether too much for his susceptible nerves, and waved us his farewell, saying, "Only heed my words, and you at all events must have a happy new year."

When we arrived at our station and set out for a brisk walk through homeward-tending fields, the night was bright and fair, and the village bells from the church on the hill rang out merrily on the listening air. Here, again, was parable; here promise. We had escaped the blinding fog. Once more we walked beneath a serene heaven, lit by many a cheerful star, and on an earth calm and fair exceedingly; while the sweet bells, through all their varied octave, seemed to greet us, as we greet our readers, with the old familiar salutation, "WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

THE DISTRESS IN THE COTTON DISTRICTS.

CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Mr. Farnall's weekly report to the Central Executive Relief Committee, on Monday, shows a further decrease of 3,911 paupers in the cotton-manufacturing districts. Another return gives 10,950 as the total decrease of paupers during the last three weeks of December. Of the last week's decrease 1,025 are set down to Stockport, 617 to Burnley, 866 to Ashton, 530 to Oldham, and 454 to Rochdale. The improvement is not general, as we find Blackburn, Chorlton, Macclesfield, and several other unions present an increase of paupers; but the total augmentation is only 1,279, against a total decrease of 5,190 in the reviving districts. In the course of the sitting of the committee, Mr. E. Ashworth brought before the members a statement in reference to the probable supply of cotton and employment during the present year, arriving at the conclusion that the weekly supply of 1863 would only be 21,000 bales, against 22,990 in 1862, and 48,700 in 1860. The calculation for this year is made on the supposition that the American blockade will continue, and, if the estimate be correct, there does not seem to be a better prospect for employment, so far as the supply of the raw material is concerned, in 1863 than during the disastrous year just passed. With this gloomy future before them, Mr. Ashworth recommended a careful husbanding of all the funds entrusted to the committee. Other members of the committee made a similar estimate of the supplies that may be expected for the present year, and expressed their opinion that if the American war continue, half-time working only can be looked for.

The total receipts of the week were reported to have been 50,786*l.* The number of bales of clothing sent out was 557. The committee have about half a million sterling in hand.

MANSION-HOUSE COMMITTEE.

At a special and extraordinary meeting of the Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, on Friday, it was decided to appropriate the balance of 20,000*l.*, standing to the credit of the committee, to the relief of the distressed operatives in the cotton districts.

This sum, together with 10,000*l.* more from Bombay, 4,000*l.* from Calcutta, 1,012*l.* from Madras, 1,000*l.* from George Peabody, Esq., swelled the receipts for Saturday and Monday to 39,031*l.* On Friday the committee forwarded cheques to the amount of 13,077*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* to 47 local committees, which several grants, including those previously forwarded, amount to 265,235*l.* 2*s.*

THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS.

DARWEN.—On Monday evening week the attendants of the mothers' sewing-class connected with Duckworth-street Independent Chapel, together with their husbands, were regaled free of charge with a substantial tea, the provision of the chapel authorities. About 200 enjoyed the meal. After tea the school was thrown open to the ordinary attendants, and Mr. Whitwell, of London, entertained the assembly with a powerful magic-lantern, with views from the history of the Bible. On Wednesday 200 of the unemployed operatives attending William-street school were provided with a substantial tea at the expense of Messrs. Eccles, Shorrocks, and Co. On New Year's Day no fewer than 5,320 persons partook of tea in the various Sunday-schools.

ACCINGTON.—Many were the treats afforded to the poor of this town on Christmas Day. Mr. James Bullough gave two fat cows, roasted, to the poor of Baxenden, numbering 700 persons. At the Peel

Institution 200 aged people were regaled with a bounteous dinner through the liberality and exertions of the Rev. C. Williams, Baptist minister, who entertained the people irrespective of creed. A friend at Liverpool forwarded the materials for the plum-puddings, and another at Manchester the knives and forks. The same day Mr. John Moore gave a sumptuous tea to eighteen old folks, whose ages averaged seventy-seven, the oldest being eighty-six, and the youngest seventy-two. As the "old folks" were leaving in the evening, Mr. Moore presented each with a guinea, money placed in his hands by the late Miss Peel, of Lytham, for such purposes.

BLACKBURN.—The official return of the chief constable, prepared on Friday last, shows a further diminution of the number of unemployed, and is an evidence of the improved trade of the district. The decrease of forced idlers during the past fortnight is very great, all things considered—3,000. Out of 27,780 operatives employed in businesses connected with the cotton-trade, 13,413 are still out of work, 4,009 are working short time, and 1,058 are fully employed. This shows that nearly all who have lately commenced work have done so on full time. It is believed that many will resume work during this week also.

WIGAN.—The steady rate of increase which has been so long reported in the weekly return of numbers relieved by the Wigan Board of Guardians has at last been checked. The relieving officer's returns presented to the guardians on Friday showed that 5,809 persons had been relieved during the preceding week, at a cost of 402*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, an increase of only four on the last return, and a decrease in the cost of 9*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* The Rev. J. Cronshaw, who, it will be remembered, is a supporter of denominational sewing-schools, has lately opened a night-school, where all young men who choose to attend are instructed, and are also given one penny for their attendance. The Bible is also read and expounded by the rev. gentleman. Several gentlemen consider that in doing this Mr. Cronshaw is making an attempt to proselytise, and last week, at the annual church tea-party, he defended himself from the charge. He said he was enabled to adopt the plan in question through the liberality of a gentleman in Birkenhead, who did not think that the men and boys were so well cared for as the girls, and who also wished to bring under the influence of a minister of the Gospel a class that could not be got together for any but pecuniary considerations. All that had been said against this mode of giving relief had not convinced him that there was any impropriety in it. He announced that it was a Protestant school, and he did not wish any one to come unless he was willing to hear the word of God read and expounded. He did not want Roman Catholics, but if they came, knowing these facts, he certainly should not turn them out.

PRESTON.—The weekly report of Mr. J. Brown, the general secretary of the Preston Relief Fund, issued on Saturday, shows an increase of four cases relieved during the week, but a decrease of 116 persons. The number of cases relieved was last week 10,707; the previous week, 10,711; the number of persons relieved last week, 39,836; the previous week, 39,952. The amount of relief last week was 1,197*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, and the previous week 1,171*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The secretary says:—"The small nominal decrease in the numbers relieved this week affords no certain indication of a return to better times; still it is pleasant to find that the rapid increase of numbers upon the funds, which, until very recently, exceeded 1,000 per week, is at least stayed." "Including the cost of food, clothing, and coals," writes the *Times* reporter, "the guardians and the relief committee are spending between them in the town a sum which very nearly amounts to half the weekly loss of wages, and, if we take private charity into account, I have no doubt that the people are now getting little short of half their usual income. This enables many of the poor to pay their rents, or, at least, a portion; and, as there is at least 2,000*l.* a week circulating in the town in ready money or in food tickets, both landlords and shopkeepers are faring better than they were a couple of months ago."

WAYS AND MEANS.—The various local bodies are now sending in pretty complete returns of their position and doings to Manchester, which are to form the basis of the next monthly report of the Central Executive. I have been permitted to look over the figures in the rough, and I am happy to say that they show decided signs of an improvement. The burden has not been lightened, but the rapid augmentation of it has certainly been arrested. In the number of hands totally out of employment there seems to be a decrease of perhaps 2,000, but it is in the change from short to full time that the greatest advance is manifested. Apparently there are close upon 10,000 operatives now working full time who a month ago were only earning half wages. In the aggregate number receiving relief there is, of course, an increase, though this has fallen entirely on the charitable funds—the recipients of out-door relief having diminished by nearly 4,000. The weekly expenditure of the committees is now close upon 40,000*l.*, but this includes the temporary outgoings for clothing, and the balance at their command actually unexpended is shown to be about the sum at which I estimated it a few days ago—150,000*l.* The Manchester Committee has a balance of 350,000*l.* at its bankers, making in all half a million, the greater part of which has already reached Lancashire, and is waiting to be spent.—*Times* Reporter.

THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GRANT AT PRESTON.—I particularly inquired into the use which had been made of the extra grant for Christmas, and the

Lord Mayor's Committee will be glad to know that it was highly appreciated, and was turned to the purpose for which it was intended. To almost every house it had furnished a good dinner. Most had indulged in a bit of butcher's meat—a luxury unknown for months past; some had even got so far as mince-meat; and in large families, where there had been seven or eight tickets coming in, a portion had been saved for a feast on New Year's Day, which in these parts is almost as great a holiday as Christmas. I was told that the people had expressed more gratitude for this unlooked-for treat than for all that has yet been done for them. It was a happy idea, and in its result has been attended with all the success which those who conceived it could have desired.—*Times* Reporter.

SEWING-SCHOOL PROSELYTISING, &c., AT PRESTON.—After a long struggle, the denominational principle has so far prevailed in the parish classes that the Guardians have been obliged to separate the Protestants from the Roman Catholics while at work, though, by a strange absurdity, they mingle freely together when they are in the educational department. I am told that the division has been made chiefly at the instance of the Protestant ladies, who found that the Irish girls were more easily managed by ladies of their own faith. In the Committee's school's where the discipline is more strict, there has been no difficulty on this point. The Independents, the Wesleyans, and one or two other denominations, maintain schools of their own, but entirely from their own funds, and the scholars chiefly belong to their own congregations. I have heard complaints that relief was used in Preston for proselytising purposes, but, though I made every inquiry, I was not able to find a single well-founded case as far as the public money goes. There are no ministers of religion on the Committee save the vicar, who is the chairman; consequently the only funds over which they have any control are received from their friends or fellow-religionists at a distance. If they confine themselves to looking after those of their own households, we may call them narrow-minded and sectarian in their charities, but it can hardly be considered an unfair use of the money confided to them. I heard some amusing stories of an unusual gravitation towards certain chapels where distributions of money and clothes were going on, and several ministers may have found their congregations rapidly augmented after it was known they were in receipt of parcels and remittances from London. Wonderful revivals of religious feeling have been manifested, too, in quarters where they were least expected, but they have been very varied in direction even in the same household. The father has gone one way, the son another, and the daughter another, and I was told of one old lady who, by dexterous management of a somewhat numerous family, had secured no less than fourteen blankets. Others had managed to provide for two or three girls at different sewing-classes. This, I think, has been pretty nearly the extent of the evil, if evil it be; but proselytes of this kind will not be very much of a loss or gain to any denomination.—*Ibid.*

A SEWING-SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.—On Thursday, the attendants of the Salford sewing-schools—women and girls—to the number of 1,100, were entertained to a dinner in the Salford Town-hall, over which the Mayor of the borough presided. The dinner was supplementary to the treat on Christmas-day, the first one having been furnished by the munificence of the Lord Mayor's committee, the second one by local subscriptions. A gigantic plum-pudding, kindly furnished by the Cook's Pension Society of London, garnished the principal table. The pudding was such a one as is generally only found in pantomimes. It was 10*ft.* 2*in.* at the top, and 8*ft.* 2*in.* at the bottom; and the "scholars" heartily enjoyed it and the festival which had been prepared for them. One or two speeches were made at this unique dinner, and songs, music, and recitations filled up the evening's enjoyment.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS.

The following amounts are acknowledged in the subscription lists of the Central and Mansion House Committees:—

Maberly Chapel, Kingsland, boxes, 5*l.*; Horbury Chapel, Notting-hill, London, per Rev. W. Roberts, 10*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; Horbury Sunday-school, Notting-hill, London, per Rev. W. Roberts, 1*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; part of the Sabbath's offering of the Blackheath Congregational Church, per Rev. J. Beazley, pastor, 60*l.*; Independent Chapel, Lower Norwood (sixth weekly collection), per Rev. B. Kent, 24*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; Independent Chapel, Lower Norwood (seventh weekly collection), per Rev. B. Kent, 21*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*; collection, Claylands Chapel, Clapham-road, London, per E. S. Marriott, 20*l.*; Mare-street Chapel, Hackney (fifth week), 1*l.* 16*s.*; Presbyterian Church, Bavington, per Rev. A. Forsyth, 5*l.*; from Sunday-school and box at the Caledonian-road Chapel, per Rev. Ebenezer Davies (second contribution), 9*l.* 10*s.*; Rev. Mr. Hollis, collection at Islington Chapel after sermons, 101*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; collection, Leatherhead Independent Chapel, Surrey, per Rev. — Payne, 8*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; collection, Zion Chapel, Frome (part of monthly collection), 10*l.*; collection, Congregational Chapel, Bocking, Essex, 56*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*; collection, Independent Chapel, Heathfield, Hurstmonceux, Sussex, 10*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; third weekly collection at Congregational Chapel, Hadleigh, per Geo. Taylor, Esq., 2*l.* 10*s.*; collection, Grove Independent Chapel, Gomersal, per Geo. Berry, 3*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*; collection, Congregational Chapel, Heaton Mersey (fifth weekly offering), per Rev. Stephen Hooper, 1*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; collection boxes, Union Chapel, Oxford-road, Manchester (third donation for two weeks), 7*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*; Great George-street Chapel, 60*l.*; Newington Independent Chapel, per Rev. H. Griffiths, 22*l.* 17*s.*; Islington Presbyterian Church Sabbath-schools, 4*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; Formby Church, per Rev. L. Formby (eighth week),

3*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; Baptist preaching-room, Brunswick Assembly Rooms, 2*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; Gateacre Chapel, after a sermon preached by the Rev. George Beaumont, 32*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; Renshaw-street Chapel (third week), 32*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; collection, Presbyterian Church, Douglas, Isle of Man, per Rev. J. Cleland, 10*l.* 10*s.*; collection, South-lane Baptist Chapel, Downton, Wilts, per Rev. J. T. Collier, 6*l.* 3*s.*; collection at Ebenezer Chapel, Widcombe, on Sunday, Dec. 14, by Rev. J. Huntley, 5*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*; collection, Baptist congregation at Tydd St. Giles, and Sutton St. James, near Wisbeach, per E. Stenson, 1*l.* 10*s.*; collection, Independent Chapel, Marshfield, per J. Bond, 1*l.*; Bishopswood, Ross, Herefordshire, per Rev. T. H. Edwards, 1*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; collection, Independent Chapel, Alton, near Cheadle, Staffordshire, per Rev. R. Tundley, 1*l.*; collection, Baptist Church, Rishanalea, Suffolk, per Mr. George Harris, 1*l.* 4*s.*; Wymondham Independents, 1*l.* 4*s.*; collection, Congregational Church, Watford, Cardiff, per Rev. T. Jones, 1*l.*; Lady Huntingdon Chapel, East Grinstead, per Mr. Thomas Charlwood (second instalment), 4*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; collection, Lane-end Chapel, High Wycombe, per Rev. J. Hodges, 2*l.* 12*s.*; collection, General Baptist Chapel, Whit-lesae, Peterborough, Rev. S. S. Aillon, 5*l.*; collection, United Presbyterian congregation, Peterhead, per A. Milne, jun., 17*l.*; concert at Independent Chapel, Bryn-y-nryn, Anglesea, per R. Perry, 2*l.* 10*s.*; Independent Chapel, Cloenam Tryddyn, per John Williams, 1*l.* 10*s.*; collection, Henley-in-Arden, per G. R. Dartnell, 2*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; collection, Independent Congregational Tabernacle, Pambrookshire, per W. Trewent, 8*l.*; collection, Welsh Congregational meeting, Capel Isaac, near Llandilo, Carmarthen, per Rev. R. Rees, 3*l.* 3*s.*; collection, Congregational Chapel, Wirksworth, 14*l.* 7*s.*; Llanellian Chapel, near Ruthin, per Rev. A. Roberts, 2*l.*; collection, Glasbull Independent Chapel, Morben, Machynlleth, per John Evans, 1*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; collection, Soar Independent Chapel, Morben, Machynlleth, per John Evans (second remittance), 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

The supplemental fund applied by the Baptist churches to the unemployed operatives of their own congregations now amounts to 5,000*l.* The committee appointed for its distribution met in Liverpool on Tuesday, and had reports laid before it by deputations which had visited the local executive bodies in the several districts.

EMANCIPATION OF AMERICAN SLAVES.

On Wednesday evening a public meeting was held at the Cowper-street Institute, City-road, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the emancipation of the slaves in America; Mr. R. Moore in the chair. The room was quite crowded. Mr. Evans, chairman of the Emancipation Society, moved the first resolution:—

That this great meeting of English working men, assembled on the last night of the year 1862, declares its hearty admiration of the noble efforts made by the government and people of the United States, not only to free themselves from the guilt of complicity with slavery, but also to promote the liberation of the enslaved; and hails the dawn of the new year as the beginning of an epoch of universal freedom upon the Western Continent, and of closer friendship between the people of England and of America.

Mr. WALLARGE seconded the resolution. The Rev. NEWMAN HALL, in supporting the resolution, said that the question of enforced labour was the working man's question all over the world; for let the capitalists once call his labourers his goods and chattels, and what would become of labour's freedom all over the world? (Hear, hear.) It mattered not whether the workman had a copper face or a pale face or a black face, the man who was compelled to work, who did not receive honest wages, who when he desired to change his master could not do so, was a slave, and such a system should be reprobated by the sons and daughters of toil over the world. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Hall went on to say:—

The South were now fighting for the avowed right of tyranny, and nothing else. (Hear, hear.) He had no patience with those who said that the Southern people were fighting for liberty, when it was perfectly notorious that they wanted to tyrannise over 4,000,000 of the negro race. (Hear, hear.) Would Garibaldi have received the sympathy he did in this country if, while fighting for the liberty of some Italians, he fought to enslave and tyrannise over others? (Hear, hear.) Then it was said the North should have let them go. That was his own opinion, too, but then it must be considered that the South asserted the right to "extend slavery wherever God and nature led the way," which would be nothing else than the breeding of continual war. (Hear, hear.) The North, therefore, said, it is better to have the quarrel at once and have done with it. (Hear, hear.) Then it was said it was better to let them go, for they could not be conquered, and it was criminal to shed unnecessary blood. Perhaps this was true. But this was arguing from the "peace platform," and it was amusing to hear persons use reasoning of this kind who never used it before. Suppose it had been said, at the time of the Indian mutiny, "Here are all your disciplined native forces going against you; what is the use of your trying to get back India?" But England did try, and she succeeded. (Hear, hear.) Well, again, the North was insulting. But it was when the South was predominant that America was insulting, and therefore the South was more to blame than the North. (Hear.) The Prince of Wales was well received by the people of the North, and the only place where he was insulted was in the capital of the Slave States. (Hear, hear.) The North was not sincere in her desire for abolition? Well, everything must grow. Suppose, when Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright advocated free trade, and when the corn-law repeal was defeated year after year in Parliament, it had been said, "Oh, England is not sincere about free trade," would it have been a correct view? (Hear, hear.) A party was sincere in America, and that party became stronger and stronger. As to the proclamation, it seemed absurd on the face of it to say, "If you are loyal you shall be permitted to be bad—that was to say, to hold your slaves; but if you are disloyal we shall compel you to be good—that was to say, to liberate your slaves." But it should be recollected that by the constitution of America the central Government could not touch this question any more than Queen Victoria could change the

law of England. But there was really nothing absurd in saying, "We will encourage the freedom of the slaves in the loyal States by making compensation on the liberation of the slaves, and we will acknowledge Confederate slave property and the freedom of the slaves in the rebellious States if they continue in rebellion after a certain date." (Hear.) Mr. Lincoln, as a righteous man, bound by an oath, could not do more than he had done. But bear in mind that the North granted the right of search; that they put to death a captain who was convicted of being engaged in the slave-trade; that they emancipated all the slaves in the district of Columbia, over which alone the Government had a right to legislate; that they proclaimed the freedom of the territories for ever; that they recognised the republics of Hayti and Liberia, which could now, for the first time, be represented in Washington by black ambassadors; that they had practically given freedom to 200,000 slaves who fled into their lines, and that they offered compensation to the owners of slave property in the loyal Slave States. (Cheers.) Whatever might have been the origin and progress of the war, it was now a fact that it was a war of emancipation, and that while the South avowed that they were fighting to maintain and extend slavery, the North could say, that though professing to bring back the South, they were fighting to put down slavery. (Hear, hear.)

The rev. speaker then alluded to the letter of Mr. Buxton, which he characterised as illogical and contradictory. Whilst Mr. Buxton professed himself anxious for the freedom of the slave, his argument went to prove that it was impossible to have him liberated, either by purchase, or voluntary arrangement, or by war—that was to say, not at all. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by drawing a frightful picture of the evils of slavery, of the utter debasement and degradation to which it brought man, woman, and child, and said that God's righteous judgment was manifested in the misery brought to the doors of the South, of the North, and of England in graduated intensity, in consequence of their participation, directly or indirectly, in the infernal crime.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND moved the adoption of an address to Mr. Lincoln. Mr. W. WILKS seconded the motion, which was put and carried, after which the meeting separated.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday evening, which had been called by a committee of working men, to enable the working classes of Manchester and Salford to express their sympathy with the cause of union in America, and to pass resolutions in support of the emancipation policy of President Lincoln. The proceedings commenced shortly after seven o'clock, and lasted till near eleven, the enthusiasm being very marked throughout, and the sentiments of the different speakers being loudly cheered. The Mayor (Abel Heywood, Esq.) occupied the chair. Several letters, apologising for absence, were read. Among the rest, Mr. J. Stuart Mill wrote to the secretary as follows:—

Blackheath-park, December 24, 1862.

Dear Sir,—I thank you very sincerely for your two letters, and for the important and most gratifying information which they contain. Hardly anything could do more good at present than such a demonstration from the suffering operatives of Lancashire, while there is in the fact itself, and in the state of mind which prompts it, a moral greatness which is at once a just rebuke to the mean feeling of so great a portion of the public, and a source of unqualified happiness to those whose hopes and fears for the great interests of humanity are, as mine are, inseparably bound up in the moral and intellectual prospects of the working classes.

Mr. Hugh Mason, of Ashton, wrote:—

I have no doubt whatever that the rebellion was planned, and has to this moment been promoted, for the sole object of perpetuating slavery, and my prayer is that it will fail of its diabolical purpose. I hope your meeting will be the first of many similar ones throughout our free country.

Several resolutions were proposed and spoken to by operatives, after which the following address to President Lincoln was adopted:—

As citizens of Manchester, assembled at the Free Trade Hall, we beg to express our fraternal sentiments towards you and your country.

We rejoice in your greatness, as an outgrowth of England, whose blood and language you share, whose orderly and legal freedom you have applied to new circumstances, over a region immeasurably greater than our own. We honour your Free States, as a singularly happy abode for the working millions, where industry is honoured. One thing alone has, in the past, lessened our sympathy with your country and our confidence in it—we mean the ascendancy of politicians who not merely maintained negro slavery, but desired to extend and root it more firmly. Since we have discerned, however, that the victory of the free North in the war which has so sorely distressed us as well as afflicted you will strike off the fetters of the slave, you have attracted our warm and earnest sympathy.

We joyfully honour you, as the President, and the Congress with you, for many decisive steps towards practically exemplifying your belief in the words of your great founders, "All men are created free and equal."

You have procured the liberation of the slaves in the district around Washington, and thereby made the centre of your Federation visibly free. You have enforced the laws against the slave-trade, and kept up your fleet against it, even while every ship was wanted for service in your terrible war. You have nobly decided to receive ambassadors from the negro republics of Hayti and Liberia, thus for ever renouncing that unworthy prejudice which refuses the rights of humanity to men and women on account of their colour. In order more effectually to stop the slave-trade you have made with our Queen a treaty, which your Senate has ratified, for the right of mutual search. Your Congress has decreed freedom as the law for ever in the vast unoccupied or half-settled territories which are directly subject to its legislative power. It has offered pecuniary aid to all States which will enact emancipation locally, and has forbidden your generals to restore fugitive slaves

who seek their protection. You have entreated the slave-masters to accept these moderate offers; and after long and patient waiting, you, as commander-in-chief of the army, have appointed to-morrow, the 1st of January, 1863, as the day of unconditional freedom for the slaves of the rebel States. Heartily do we congratulate you and your country on this humane and righteous course.

We assume that you cannot now stop short of a complete outrooting of slavery. It would not become us to dictate any details, but there are broad principles of humanity which must guide you. If complete emancipation in some States be deferred, though only to a predetermined day, still, in the interval, human beings should not be counted chattels. Women must have rights of chastity and of maternity, men the rights of husbands, masters the liberty of manumission. Justice demands for the black, no less than for the white, the protection of the law—that his voice be heard in your courts. Nor must any such abomination be tolerated as slave-breeding States and a slave-market—if you are to earn the high reward of all your sacrifices, in the approval of the universal brotherhood and of the Divine Father. It is for your free country to decide whether anything but immediate and total emancipation can secure the most indispensable rights of humanity against the inveterate wickedness of local laws and local executives.

We implore you, for your own honour and welfare, not to faint in your Providential mission. While your enthusiasm is adame, and the tide of events runs high, let the work be finished effectually. Leave no root of bitterness to spring up and work fresh misery to your children. It is a mighty task, indeed, to reorganise the industry not only of 4,000,000 of the coloured race, but of 5,000,000 of whites. Nevertheless, the vast progress you have made in the short space of twenty months fills us with hope that every stain on your freedom will shortly be removed, and that the erasure of that foul blot upon civilisation and Christianity—chattel slavery—during your Presidency will cause the name of Abraham Lincoln to be honoured and revered by posterity. We are certain that such a glorious consummation will cement Great Britain to the United States in close and enduring regards. Our interests, moreover, are identified with yours. We are truly one people, though locally separate. And if you have any ill-wishers here, be assured they are chiefly those who oppose liberty at home, and that they will be powerless to stir up quarrels between us, from the very day in which your country becomes, undeniably and without exception, the home of the free.

Accept our high admiration of your firmness in upholding the proclamation of freedom.

Mr. BAZLEY, M.P., on rising to support the address, was received with much enthusiasm. In the course of his speech he said:—

They could not better spend the close of one year, and perhaps trespass upon the threshold of another, than meeting in the cause of freedom. (Cheers.) In common with themselves, he deplored the lamentable conflict which was taking place on the other side of the Atlantic; but should it result in the salvation and freedom of the negro, they would have good cause to rejoice. (Cheers.) It was not the Northern policy which immediately deprived us of our supplies of cotton, but an attempt at coercion on the part of the Southern States in order to compel a recognition of their independence. (Hear, hear.) There had been no meetings in the South to assist the unemployed operatives in Lancashire; but there had been enthusiastic meetings with that object in New York. (Hear, hear.) It was the free who sympathised with the free. He referred at some length to our neglect with respect to the cultivation of cotton in the colonies, and to the efforts made by Mr. Bright and others to prove the capabilities of India; and said the promoters of the meeting had his best wishes for the success of the great and good cause in which they were embarked, and they should have his assistance also. (Applause.)

Amongst the subsequent speakers were Mr. S. Pope, Dr. Watts, and Mr. T. B. Potter.

On Wednesday evening, Mr. George Thompson delivered a lecture on American slavery in the Temperance-hall, Sheffield. There was rather a thin attendance. Mr. Alderman Saunders occupied the chair. The lecturer reviewed at great length the history of the United States on the slavery question, and traced the cause of secession entirely to the rooted antipathy of the slaveholders to the cause of negro freedom. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the President and the people of the North were determined to carry out a policy of emancipation, and resumed his seat amid enthusiastic cheers. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were proposed, as was the following amendment, which was rejected by a large majority:—

That, whilst this meeting expresses its unmitigated abhorrence of slavery, and hopes the time is not distant when, by politic and just means, this relic of barbarism shall be abolished, yet, seeing the united bravery, the skilful generalship—(laughter and interruption)—the vast resources, the consequent victory or death of the men of the South, and the wasteful expenditure of life and treasure by the North, this meeting is of opinion that the Southern States of America should be at once recognised by England, France, and the other European Powers, and that mediation would thus end the war.

The Chairman then put the original resolution, which was passed with only a few dissenting hands being held up in opposition. Mr. Richard Otley moved the adoption of an address to President Lincoln, which was adopted by a great majority.

AN OUTBREAK OCCURRED AMONG THE CONVICTS AT DARTMOOR on the Sunday before Christmas-day. The warders were overpowered, and a detachment of soldiers were ordered to charge the mutineers before order could be restored. When the ring-leaders had been placed in confinement, Captain the Hon. R. R. Best, the deputy-governor, was knocked down in the chapel by an "old lag," and would have been severely ill-used if the warders had not been at hand. In spite of this disturbance the whole of the convicts were allowed their usual indulgence on Christmas-day.

MADAGASCAR.

The *Missionary Magazine* publishes a long and graphic account, from the Rev. W. Ellis, of the coronation of the King and Queen of Madagascar, on the 23rd of September, substantially the same as that contained in our last number. Mr. Ellis and the newly-arrived missionaries were specially invited to attend the ceremonial, and they were also honoured as guests at the banquet by which it was followed. On the Champ de Mars, where the coronation took place, there were positions assigned to all—to Mr. Ellis and his friends among the native pastors, on the south side of the steps leading to the throne; it having been agreed that they were to offer prayer at the time of the crown being placed on the head of the King. On the opposite side of the steps were the Sisters of Charity and about forty girls and children, and, still nearer the stage, five or six Catholic priests, and some of their people. Immediately in front of the Sisters of Charity and the priests were the idol-keepers, with their also small number of adherents. Subsequent to the ceremony Mr. Ellis, by request of Radama, took a photograph of the scene—the King and Queen coming to the front of the pavilion for that purpose. The following are interesting extracts from Mr. Ellis's diary previous to the coronation:—

RECEPTION OF THE NEWLY-ARRIVED MISSIONARIES.

Aug. 30th.—The King sent off early in the morning four officers of the palace to welcome the missionaries, and conduct them to the capital. General Johnstone called and said he would go with me to meet them, and Captain Anson also went to invite them to take refreshment at their quarters. The Christians were busily preparing their houses for them. They had made them look very comfortable, and had provided a most abundant supply of provisions. I went to the brow of the hill, and saw them in the distance. We descended, and at the bottom of the hill on which the city stands met and welcomed them—that is, the first detachment of their party, consisting of the two married couples and Mr. Stagg. I hastened to prepare them some tea and other refreshment, after which they appeared quite recruited, and pleased with their accommodation.

I saw them again early on the following morning, the Sabbath, when all but Dr. Davidson, who had been ill, went with me to Analakely, where above 1,000 persons were assembled for worship, whose countenances brightened as we entered. When I introduced the missionaries to the King and Queen, they both expressed themselves much gratified by their safe arrival, and by the prospect of instruction and improvement to their people. They also expressed much pleasure at the arrival of English ladies, and more than once said, "May God bless you, and preserve you in health and comfort here!" The general and the other English officers also publicly congratulated the missionaries on their arrival.

September 4th.—Accompanied the missionaries to the Prime Minister, who received them very courteously, and expressed himself much gratified at their arrival. He inquired about the respective branches of improvement which they would endeavour to promote among the people. He expressed his wish to give Dr. Davidson a house for his residence, and another house close by for an hospital, and to render him every possible assistance in his work. We thanked him for his kindness, and when we left he sent his aide-de-camp with us to show us the premises, which consisted of a spacious court or compound now occupied by the houses of the Minister's dependents, which he said would be cleared for the erection of a house and offices for the doctor. The site and space appeared most eligible. The residence is in the midst of a dense population, easily accessible to the missionaries and the chief nobles of the capital. I cannot but feel grateful to the Most High for this fresh evidence of his favour towards the mission.

5th.—After the King had read in the Bible to-day, Mr. Toy, who had accompanied me, and who is acquainted with singing by notes, exhibited his books, and the modulator, or key to the new mode of singing on Mr. Curwen's plan. He explained the new method of notation, and sang several new tunes. The King sent for his best singers, and they were all delighted with the simplicity and distinctness of the new mode. The King expressed his wish that Mr. Toy should come and live near him, and be the minister at Ambohipotsy, and that Mrs. Toy should teach the girls needlework, &c.

6th.—Mr. Stagg, who had been ill with the fever, came to see my school, and was pleased with the attention and attainments of the pupils. I afterwards introduced him to the King, who made many inquiries about the progress of education in England, and seemed interested in the accounts of the efforts to raise the education of females, and promote the welfare of women by extending the range of their occupation. He showed Mr. Stagg the school-house, built of stone, where his band was practising on the instruments sent from England. I have learned that the King is prepared to give orders for school-houses to be erected in the villages of the province, and to extend education as widely and rapidly as possible.

STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE MISSION.

I can only state that everything connected with the progress of religion among the people is, considering all the circumstances, most encouraging. I hear of scarcely any defections among them from the integrity and purity of the Gospel, or any abatement in their zeal and earnestness in bringing others to Christ. Their numbers continue to increase, and the most marvellous and gratifying accounts are received from distant provinces.

I am informed that there are hundreds of believers in the Betsileo country, 200 miles from the capital, and in the region to which some of the earlier Christians were banished. They carried and scattered the precious seed of the Word, and a wide and glorious harvest invites the reapers to the field. I hope you will be able soon to send a missionary from England to this important province.

I have also received visits from Christians who had come from Vonesongo to the coronation. They were anxious to obtain copies of the Scriptures. Received a letter from the Christians at Fianarantsoa, stating their wish to see me, and their urgent want of Bibles. There are several communicants at this remote military post, which is in the Betsileo country, seven or eight days'

journey from the capital, and I have been told that there are there some hundreds of professed Christians. I hope to be able to go and see them.

I received a visit yesterday (Oct. 5th) from another party of Christians far to the south on the east coast. The Hovah officers at the military post have been the evangelists.

I went with the missionaries to the morning service at Amparibe, where a vast number partook of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. When the usual congregation had dispersed, others flocked in and nearly filled the chapel, silently seating themselves on the matted floor. There appeared to be about eight hundred. Great part of them were neatly, some of them tastefully, dressed in clean European or native dresses, and their calm, quiet, cheerful aspect was deeply affecting. More than once during the service I was almost overcome by my feelings, especially when I reflected that little more than thirty years before there was not a single believer in Christ—scarcely a single hearer of his Gospel. I could not help exclaiming more than once to the missionaries, "What hath God wrought!" They were all much affected, and said they never expected to witness such a sight in Madagascar, and that they had never seen so many communicants together in England. An address was given at the close by one of the pastors of Analakely, and one of the pastors of Ambotonokanga closed with prayer. We had entered the chapel at nine, and it was twelve before we came out. I was tired and faint, for I had not had time for more than a cup of coffee before I went.

In the afternoon I went to the service in the King's house as usual. His Majesty had sent a message to say that he wished the service to be as usual, though he could not attend, as a meeting had been appointed with the French commodore. The general and other officers, together with the missionaries, had assembled, when the King came in, and, after shaking each one by the hand, apologised for being obliged to leave us. We then proceeded with the service in the usual way, and after a short address in Malagasy I preached from "I will be as the dew unto Israel," closing with an address in Malagasy. The missionaries then took refreshment at my house, and we spent this, our first Sabbath evening passed together in Madagascar, in devotion and reading the Scriptures.

RADAMA II.

I hear continually of the great clemency of the King, and am not surprised at the affectionate feelings with which he is regarded by the people. I have been told by an officer who knows him well that, while Prince of Madagascar, he used to be deeply affected at the suffering and misery inflicted on the people, and the false promises by which they were often ensnared to their ruin. Some officers, his most particular friends, have told me of many of his attempts to mitigate the severities of the late government.

I am much struck with the increased sagacity of the King with regard to any public measures submitted to his consideration, and with the progress he has made since my last visit in general information, and in the power of judging of men and things; his cordiality to myself is unabated, though it is often severely tested.

When the French and English Embassies were on their way to the capital, it was announced to the King that General Johnstone, the head of the latter, had set off from Tamatave, and was coming to put the crown on the head of the King at the coronation. The King said, "The French say they are to put the crown on my head—now the English say they are coming for that purpose. They can't both do it, for I have not got two heads for each of them to crown. Go and ask my father, Mr. Ellis, what I am to do." I was obliged to attend this summons. Though very early in the morning, I found the King, as usual, consulting with some of his officers, as he rises early and transacts a great amount of business before breakfast. I endeavoured to explain the mistake which had arisen from the expression, "assist at the coronation." But I also said I thought the coronation was a great national act, appertaining in its responsibilities to the Malagasy alone, and should from first to last be performed by themselves. The King said that was his own view of the transaction, and that as he had received the authority he exercised by inheritance, he should assume the symbol of it neither from France nor England. The secretary afterwards told me that the King had decided to take the crown and place it on his head himself.

The King appears deeply sensible of the respect due to religious observances, and is keenly alive to impressions of compassion or kindness, as, for instance, when the letter from Queen Victoria was presented by the Embassy, the broad black mourning border seemed to affect both King and Queen with a kind of tender reverence; yet, with the constitution of a southern clime, he is easily excited to a kind of exuberant vivacity. When, during a conversation we had lately, in the presence of the Queen and others, some comparisons were drawn between the compassion of Queen Victoria towards the poor and afflicted, and his own kindness to the persecuted Christians, the King looked to me as if for approval. I said he had, in many respects, "all that could be desired by a people in their King." He looked grave, and said, "Mr. Ellis knows what is in my heart; he knows that I desire to know and serve God. I pray to God to enlighten my mind, and teach me what is right and what I ought to know and do." The company appeared all very much interested in these remarks.

THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

On the arrival of General Johnstone and the other officers of the Embassy, the Christians came to ask me to go with them to pay what they considered a suitable mark of respect to the general. On reaching the place, I found a fine fat ox standing near the door, which they had brought as a present. I explained their object to the general, and when, accompanied by the Bishop of Mauritius and Captain Anson, he appeared at the verandah, Rainimarosandy stood forth from the native pastors and other Christians that formed a crowd in front of the house, and in a brief, sensible speech expressed, on behalf of the Christians of the capital, the great satisfaction which the arrival of the general and his companions from England, the land of their earliest friends, had afforded them. He said they felt, after the kindness shown them, that they were regarded as friends, and were bound by new ties to their friends in England. That, following the customs of their country, they had brought the present of an ox (to which he pointed), of which they begged his acceptance, as an ex-

pression of their gladness in seeing their friends and the friends of Radama amongst them. The general made a very appropriate acknowledgment, to which the bishop added some equally appropriate remarks, both of which I interpreted, and the parties then separated with mutual pleasure. There were many men of rank among the Christians present who had worn the heavy chain in prison and in exile, who had drunk the *tangena*, who had been doomed to death themselves, or had lost, for their faith in Christ, their dearest earthly relatives, and there was on this, as on all similar occasions, a reality and heartiness in their words and demeanour that seemed to make a deep impression on the minds of the visitors, even on those that made no pretence to religion.

THE BISHOP OF MAURITIUS.

The Bishop of Mauritius has addressed the following kind and gratifying letter to Dr. Tidman:—

Port Louis, October 6, 1862.

My dear Sir,—I send by this mail a packet given to me by Mr. Ellis, on the 18th of August, at Antananarivo. You will doubtless find in it an account of my conversations with him on the momentous subject of the evangelisation of Madagascar. The two volumes which you kindly gave me in 1855, in the name of the Directors of the London Missionary Society, have been one of several means for cherishing and strengthening my desires to help in that great work; and I am thankful to find, by a letter received from Mr. Hawkins since my return, that he had communicated with you on the matter, and had received so encouraging a reply. Mr. Ellis is clearly in a position of the utmost importance at Antananarivo, and he stated without reserve his conviction that the missionary staff sent on that service can occupy that central field. My plan, therefore, is to work for occupying places on the coast, and having vainly attempted to get a translation of our Liturgy here, I thought of asking Mr. Baker to come to Mauritius and superintend that work, for which he is so well fitted by his knowledge of the language, and, at the same time, he might superintend their printing also. Our morning and evening prayers would be our chief want.

It would greatly rejoice the Directors and friends of the London Missionary Society to witness the reverence and affection with which the names of their former missionaries are mentioned by the people; I must not, for time does not allow it, enlarge upon such matters, but I hope portions of my journals bearing on them will reach you.

On Sunday, the 24th of August, I met some of your missionaries at Ampasimbe, where we were resting for the day, and after our Litany and a Malagasy service, conducted through an interpreter, I read to them an account of my visit to the four spots where the martyrs had suffered. It was a solemn occasion. Farther down we met the other three; all were well and in good spirits, with the exception of Mr. Toy, who was suffering on the Sunday from indisposition, but on the Monday was better.

It would have given me much pleasure to have conferred with you personally, and to have told you of Mr. Ellis's work, and of his kindness to me, but there is so much work here for me in French and English that I cannot leave.

I trust we shall all feel the unspeakable importance of seeking that grace and blessing which alone can prevail to bring men out of darkness and vice to the light and purity of the Gospel of Christ. Nothing but actual contact with heathen darkness can make one appreciate the energy of the former which brings men out of it.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

VINCENT W. MAURITIUS.

Rev. Dr. Tidman.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Prince of Wales, Prince Louis of Hesse, and Lord Clarendon and party, paid a visit to Winchester, on Wednesday, and returned to Osborne the same day.

On Wednesday last, about noon, as the Princess Alice, accompanied by the Hon. Mrs. Bruce, was passing in a phaeton through Broadlands, a suburb of Newport, Isle of Wight, the phaeton came in contact with a cart and was completely overturned. Princess Alice escaped with slight bruises on her left arm, and Mrs. Bruce with scratches on the hands. They returned to Osborne in the course of an hour, and were both quite well the next day. Strangely enough, two days previously—on Monday,—a wagon drawing some fire-engines came into collision with the carriage of the Crown Prince of Prussia in Berlin. The centre pole of the wagon to which they were attached was carried right through the window of one of the doors of the Royal carriage, shattering it to pieces. The Crown Princess, in the terror of the moment, put out her hand to seize the door, and was cut by the broken glass. The injury is not considerable, and the accident might have been greater but for the exertions of the Crown Prince.

The annual gifts from her Majesty the Queen to the poor of the parishes of Windsor and Clewer were distributed on New Year's Day, under the supervision of the clergy and a committee of gentlemen of the respective parishes.

The Emperor and Queen Victoria exchanged New Year's congratulations through the telegraph.

On Sunday morning, the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, Princess Helena, Princess Louise, and Prince Louis of Hesse, attended divine service at Whippingham Church.

The preparations for the marriage of the Prince of Wales are actively going on at Windsor. The decorations of the principal suites of rooms in the Castle will be magnificent. The Archduke Ferdinand-Maximilian and the Archduchess Charlotte, some of the German journals state, will go to London in March, to be present at the marriage.

Although the precise day is not yet fixed upon for the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, we are enabled to state that this important event will most likely take place at the latter end

of the month of March. At whatever time the marriage of the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alexandra takes place, it is finally settled that the honeymoon of the Royal bride and bridegroom will be passed at Osborne.—*Court Journal*.

The Prince of Wales has been made a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and has accepted the honour.

Accounts from Naples state that Prince Alfred of England intends remaining there till he has passed his examination as lieutenant. The St. George, line-of-battle ship, on board of which his Royal Highness is serving, is at anchor in the Bay of Baia.

Viscount Palmerston remains with Lady Palmerston at his seat, Broadlands, Hants. Earl Russell is at Pembroke-lodge, Richmond-park. Mr. Cardwell went on Friday to attend the Queen at her Majesty's marine residence, Osborne, Isle of Wight. Secretary Sir George Grey went, in the early part of the week, to pay a visit to Lord Harrowby at his seat, Sandon-hall; the right hon. baronet is expected to return to London on Monday. Sir C. Wood remains in the north. Mr. Gladstone is at Hawarden Castle, and the Duke of Newcastle at his seat, Clumber-park, Notts. The Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, President of the Poor Law Board, and Mr. Milner Gibson, President of the Board of Trade, have been in London during the week.—*Observer*.

The marriage of Marshal Canrobert with Miss Macdonald, of Grove House, Windsor, will be solemnised early in the present month. The Emperor and Empress have sent the bride elect an autograph letter, accompanied by a present of diamonds.

The Count de Paris appears to be taking great interest in the cause of the distressed operatives in the cotton districts. His Royal Highness last week not only visited Manchester, but also Stockport and Blackburn, to inspect the relief arrangements at those places. The Prince, it is said, expressed himself much gratified with what he saw.

It is expected (says the *United Service Gazette*) that a general order will shortly be issued to discontinue the purchase system for commissions in the Military Train.

It is stated that Lord Palmerston has accepted an invitation from the citizens of Glasgow, and will visit that town during the Easter recess, when he will be entertained at a public banquet.

It is officially announced that the marriage of the Prince of Wales will take place early in March. The Princess Alexandra is to arrive at Gravesend in the Victoria and Albert, and will be met by the Prince of Wales. The party will then proceed to London, and will be conveyed in her Majesty's carriages with military escort through the metropolis to Windsor Castle. In the course of the year leaves will be held on the part of her Majesty by the Prince of Wales, and drawing-rooms by one of the Royal princesses, or, after her marriage, by the Princess of Wales. Shortly after their marriage the Royal pair will hold an evening reception at St. James's Palace, when those who are invited will have an opportunity of offering their congratulations to their Royal Highnesses.

Law and Police.

HUDSON v. SIR F. SLADE AND OTHERS.—The action by Mr. Hudson against the Benchers of the Middle Temple, in which the jury were discharged without giving a verdict, will again come before the Court of Queen's Bench for trial by another jury.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The January sessions of the Central Criminal Court opened on Monday morning. The calendar is a heavy one, and contains some serious cases. The men charged with stealing Bank of England note-paper from the mills at Laverstoke and with forging notes are to be tried at these sessions. It is believed that the case will be called this morning. Sir Fitzroy Kelly leads for the prosecution, and Mr. Serjeant Ballantine is engaged, with two other learned gentlemen, for the defence of Brewer.

THE NIGHT-POACHING ACT.—An important decision was given at the Stamford Quarter Sessions, on Saturday, in an appeal from a conviction under the Night-Poaching Prevention Act. It appeared that, on the night of the 11th December, four or five men were met on the highway by the police, and on being searched a number of hares and rabbits were found in their possession. The men were subsequently taken before the magistrates and convicted, upon which notice of appeal was given, on the ground that there was no evidence to show that they had been upon any land in search or pursuit of game. The Recorder said there was no doubt the men had been poaching, but the evidence failed to show where they had got their game, and the conviction must therefore be quashed. The Stamford bench is not the only one which has convicted on the inference that men found in possession of game had been on certain lands for the purpose of poaching, without a particle of legal evidence in proof of so material a fact; but it is to be hoped that after such a decision this obnoxious act will at least be legally construed.

WHEATLEY v. JAMES.—We are requested to insert the following relative to the above case, which lately came before the Court of Exchequer:—

The above case has been strangely misrepresented to the public, only one side having been heard in court. We, the undersigned, being officers of the Independent Church, Stockwell Head, Hinkley, beg to say that the case was in every respect dealt with by the church in the ordinary way of Christian discipline, as exercised by Congregationalists. Two members were expelled.

An action for libel, and for 200*l.* damages, was brought against the Rev. John James, the pastor, who was also chairman of the meetings held. In this proceeding principles were involved very seriously affecting the existence and purity of Congregational churches generally. The whole of the deacons, with other members of the church and congregation, in conjunction with the pastor, therefore, determined to defend the case to the uttermost. The part which we have taken has been in our official capacity, and was demanded of us by the constitution of our church, and we believe by the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. At the suggestion of the presiding judge, repeatedly and publicly expressed, the trial terminated in the withdrawal of a juror. By this arrangement, the suit for damages was given up, and our plea of privilege virtually granted. All that defendant sought was thus secured. We consider that such cases deeply concern the liberties and interests of all Congregationalists, call for the expression of opinion, and the manifestation of sympathy with those who are persecuted for conscience's sake. Considerable expenses have been incurred by the defence. Any contributions towards this outlay will be gratefully received:—Deacons—Daniel Wheatley, Morris Chamberlain, John Marvin, Joseph Lord, Andrew J. Harries, and Wm. Hampson. Vestry of the Independent Chapel, Stockwell Head, Hinkley. December 30, 1862.

Miscellaneous News.

ANOTHER FOOLHARDY "FEMALE BLONDIN" has met with an "accident," as it is absurdly called. She was going through her hazardous performances at Northfleet, when a pole broke, and she, as well as an assistant, was seriously injured.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.—On Wednesday the Commissioners formally gave up possession of the building to Messrs. Kelk and Lucas. The ceremony merely consisted in Mr. Sandford handing a bunch of keys to Mr. Lucas.

THE PEABODY GIFT.—It is said that the trustees appointed to carry out the intentions of Mr. Peabody in his munificent gift to the poor of London, have visited various localities and selected sites for improved dwellings. Plans have been drawn and contracts are in progress.

STOCK OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.—The annual stock-taking among the Liverpool brokers has revealed the fact that the stock of cotton exceeds by 100,000 bales the quantity supposed to be in hand. The total quantity is 392,000 bales, against 622,565 bales last year. A fall of one halfpenny per pound in the price of cotton was the result of this discovery.

SURREY CHAPEL POPULAR LECTURES.—On Monday night the Rev. Newman Hall lectured on "The Life of Mahomet," and Mr. G. M. Murphy on "The Fourth Estate," to an intelligent and appreciating audience. The applause at every allusion to the progress and power of the cheap press was very pleasing. Next Monday evening the Rev. Newman Hall will lecture on "Paradise Lost."

TRADE RETURNS.—The Board of Trade returns for the month ending November, show the following results:—The declared value of exports for the month last past is 9,761,518*l.*, whilst for the corresponding month of 1860 and 1861 they were respectively 10,757,749*l.* and 9,874,762*l.* The total value of exports for the eleven months is 113,280,000*l.* against 115,355,000*l.* for the same period in 1861, and 123,714,000*l.* in 1860.

THE BRITISH NAVY.—The annual return of the strength of the British navy was issued on Thursday, from which it appears that we have, including gunboats, 1,014 vessels. Of these 85 are line-of-battle ships, carrying from 74 to 131 guns; 39 carrying from 50 to 72 guns; 69 large frigates; 30 screw corvettes; 600 frigates and other ships mounting less than 20 guns; and 190 gunboats. In addition to this formidable force there are 43 vessels in course of construction.

DEATH FROM SUFFOCATION.—Four young children, named Wood, were suffocated at Greenock, early on Saturday morning last. The parents of the deceased were absent from home, visiting a friend in another part of the town. After the children had gone to bed, their apparel, which was thrown in a heap on the floor, by some means took fire, and there being no adequate means of escape for the smoke, they were all suffocated, apparently while asleep.

INFANTICIDE IN LONDON.—Dr. Lankester, the coroner of Central Middlesex, has again been calling attention to the frequency of infanticide in London. He says that of seventy-two inquests which he held when he first became coroner, sixteen were on the bodies of murdered infants. Since then, however, the number had decreased, until now he found that there were only 26 cases of infanticide in 252 inquests. This proportion, however, he very rightly spoke of as being discreditable to the metropolis, and he expressed an opinion that much of the prevalence of the crime was owing to the inertness of the police. They had come to regard cases of child-murder as things into which it was no use to inquire, and he believed the result would be that familiarity with the crime would soon breed apathy in regard to it so far as the public are concerned.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT PORTSMOUTH.—A fire attended with fatal results has occurred at Portsmouth. It appears that, on Thursday night, a shoemaker, named Keene, invited two friends to spend the evening with himself and wife, and that, while they were enjoying themselves, they were alarmed by discovering that the house was on fire. The two friends at once made their escape, and Keene and his wife rushed upstairs to rescue their family, consisting of six children, who were sleeping in the upper storey. The flames, however, had spread so rapidly that Keene was driven back; but the wife,

impelled forward by her strong maternal affection, rushed through the flames into still greater danger, and sacrificed her life in her heroic but futile attempt to save the lives of her children. Her body, together with the bodies of her children, was found shockingly burnt, within the outer door, it having fallen, with the others, through the flooring from the room above.

THE LATE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT EDMOND'S MAIN COLLIERY.—The circumstances of the late explosion at Edmond's Main Colliery, Worsbroughdale, have been laid before the Queen, and her Majesty has shown her sympathy for the widows and orphans of the sufferers by a donation of 100*l.* to the relief fund,—which has now reached a total of 1,300*l.* All the bodies of the dead still remain in the pit, and owing to the difficulties that attend the flooding of the works, and the probably greater difficulty that will be experienced during the pumping out of the water, some time will elapse before any effort can be made to recover the remains of those who perished by the explosion.

NEW BARONETS.—A substantial addition is about being made to the ranks of the baronetage. We understand that in the course of a few days an official notification will be made that her Majesty has conferred this distinction upon six gentlemen. They are Mr. William Brown, of Liverpool; Mr. Frank Crossley, of Halifax, M.P. for the West Riding; Mr. David Baxter, of Dundee; Sir Daniel Cooper, the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales; Mr. Henry Rich, for many years a consistent supporter of Liberal principles in the House of Commons, and Mr. Thomas Davies Lloyd, of Bronwydd, a Welsh gentleman of ancient lineage, well known and popular throughout the Principality.—*Globe*.

OPENING OF THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—The Metropolitan Railway will be opened for traffic on Saturday next. Everything is ready; signals, points, switches, permanent way, retaining walls, engines, carriages, and all the et ceteras necessary for the safe and efficient working of a railway, are pronounced in satisfactory order, and on Friday next members of the Court of Aldermen and of the Common Council, members of Parliament, and of various railway boards, and long-expectant shareholders, will celebrate the close of an important public work by a grand banquet. On Saturday the directors of the Great Western Railway travelled over the line, and in their presence every signal was tested, and found to work satisfactorily.

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.—The last sentence of the law was, on Friday, carried out against an old man named Ockold, convicted at the Worcestershire assizes of the murder of his wife. The parties had lived unhappily together; the wife, who was intemperate, and was also in bad health, irritated him by her groaning, and he frequently assaulted her. One of these was fatal. The old man—he was seventy years of age—appeared to have been buoyed up to the last day with the hope that he would be reprieved; he was told that there was no hope, and he became very restless. He was very prostrated on the scaffold, and seemed to be penitent. The crowd was considerable, but good order was preserved. —On Saturday Thomas Edwards was executed at Liverpool for the murder of Isabella Tonge. The crowd of spectators assembled to witness the execution is estimated at 10,000, with few exceptions, all of the lowest class of society.

CONTINUOUS GALES.—The storm of Thursday night appears to have been attended with serious damage in London and other parts of the country. Friday was a day of storms in the north of Yorkshire, and the rain fell so heavily (snow on the hills) that hardly a field in the low-lying districts escaped flooding. The rivers rose very rapidly, the land being wet and full of water to begin with.—During the greater part of Sunday night and Monday morning a violent gale of wind and rain swept over the metropolis and suburban districts, doing a great amount of mischief. One barge, laden with coals, was so knocked about that it sprang a leak, and, although taken in tow by a steam-tug, the vessel and its cargo sank near Blackfriars-bridge. The market-gardens along the South-Eastern and Brighton Railways are several feet under water.

THE REVENUE.—The usual revenue returns were issued on Wednesday. First a comparison is instituted between the quarter just ended and the Christmas quarter of last year; then a similar comparison for the nine months of the financial year that have elapsed; and last of all a comparison of the two years. The comparison is greatly in favour of the present year, the only falling off being on the Excise, which shows a deficiency of more than three quarters of a million on the nine months. On the quarter there is an increase of 1,310,889*l.*; on the nine months the increase is about the same, or 1,321,950*l.*; and on the year the increase is 2,392,528*l.* The difference between this sum and that of the nine months, however, has already gone into the account of the last financial year. But here is a surplus of more than a million and a quarter already secured, which, as matters now appear, is more likely to be increased than diminished before the 31st of March next. In the expenditure for the quarter, Exchequer deficiency bills to the extent of 2,158,512*l.* have been issued, against 3,429,902*l.* that have been cancelled within the same period.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONARIES.—The Rev. Wm. Thompson has received letters from the interior, and among them one from the Rev. T. Thomas, of Ioyati, the country of Moselekatz, dated 17th June, 1862, which communicates the sad intelligence of the death, on the 10th June, of Mrs. Thomas and child, of intermittent fever. The

mortality attending the newly-projected Missions in Central South Africa has been remarkable. Four years ago a large party of missionaries, consisting of ten adults and four children, left Cape Town under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, for the regions adjacent to the Zambezi, to establish missions among the Makalolo and the Matebele. One of them, Mrs. Sykes, did not proceed beyond Kuruman, where she rested from her work. Mr. and Mrs. Helmore and two children, with Mrs. Price and her infant, fell mysteriously among the Makalolo, and more recently, as now mentioned, Mrs. Thomas, in the prime of life, among the Matebele. The Rev. Robert Moffat, Kuruman, thus writes of her:—"Mrs. Thomas was an estimable person, of a sweet, kind, and lovely disposition, and beloved by all who knew her."—*Cape Correspondent of the Watchman*.

LITERATURE AND ART.

The *Reader* is the title of a new literary journal, the first number of which appeared on Saturday. It is edited by a well-known biographer and friend of Cavour, Mr. Dicey, but the future editor is an historian of British India, Mr. J. M. Ludlow. Among the staff who write in the first number are the Rev. Charles Kingsley, Thomas Hughes (author of "Tom Brown's School-days"), Tom Taylor, and T. Huxley.

In answer to the circular letter of the Council of the Society of Arts addressed to the jurors, the majority have given opinions adverse to the principle of medals and honourable mentions.

We learn that it is the intention of several ethnologists of the more advanced liberal school to found a new society, to be entitled the "Anthropological Society of London," upon the model of the Société Anthropologique de Paris. The support of many of our best ethnologists has already been given to the new plan.—*Athenæum*.

The statement that Mr. Froude is about to relinquish the editorship of *Fraser's Magazine* is without any foundation.

The Queen has accepted a copy of "Poems: an Offering to Lancashire," and graciously expressed to Miss Faithfull her satisfaction with the same.

The Rev. H. W. Holland, the junior Wesleyan minister of the Newcastle circuit, has contributed another paper to the *Cornhill Magazine*. The last one was concerning "Professional Thieves"; the present is on "The Science of Garroting and House-breaking," and is profusely illustrated with wood engravings of the burglars' tools. It is an instructive and interesting paper, and well worth perusal.

A very neat marble tablet has been erected in the Congregational Chapel, Great Everston, to the memory of the Rev. Francis Holcroft, M.A., one of the noble and illustrious heroes of 1662, bearing the following inscription:—"In memory of the Rev. Francis Holcroft, M.A., sometime Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. He began his earnest ministry while yet at college. In principle a Congregationalist, the Act of Uniformity in 1662 made him a Dissenter. For preaching in this village, in 1663 he was imprisoned nearly nine years in Cambridge Castle; a second bondage of three years soon followed. Again free, he pursued his great work until his health failed. He died at Triplow, January 6th, 1692, and was buried at Oakington. England and the world will never lose the benefit of the struggle for civil and religious rights in the 17th century. 'Other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.' This memorial tablet is set up to their great and good founder, by the church and congregation in this place in 1862. G. W. E. Brown, pastor."

MUDIE'S LIBRARY.—The sale of a work, as is well known, does not always represent its circulation, and it may be interesting, therefore, to add to the above figures a few facts drawn from Mr. Mudie's great book-store, representing the largest circulating library in the world. Mr. Mudie is, at the present moment, the happy possessor of very nearly a million of books—a collection before which that of the famous Bodleian sinks into the shade, and that of the Vatican becomes dwarfish, as far as quantity is concerned. The relative importance of the various classes of English literature shapes itself somewhat differently, as before given, from the point of view of the supporters of this great lending library. During the ten years ending December, 1862, Mr. Mudie added close upon 960,000 volumes to his library, nearly one-half of which were works of fiction. To this immense collection, history and biography contributed 215,743 volumes; travel and adventure, 125,381; fiction, 416,706; and miscellaneous books, including religious, scientific, political, and other works, 202,157 volumes. Of many popular works, in great demand at a particular time, from one to three thousand copies were taken by Mr. Mudie, the highest number being reached in Dr. Livingstone's *Travels*, of which 3,250 copies were added to the library. In the opinion of Mr. Mudie, every book finds, on an average, thirty readers—considerably more, in the majority of instances, as regards novels, and considerably less in the case of scientific and philosophical works. The most popular novels, according to the experience thus gathered, have been "Tom Brown's School Days," and "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; and next to them, "John Halifax," "Vanity Fair," "Adam Bede," "Two Years Ago," "The Woman in White," "The Caxtons," and "East Lynne"—in a descending scale, according to the order here given. Considering the large basis on which these statistics are founded, they are not without importance for measuring the circulation of modern English literature, and the literary taste of the age.—*Supplement to Spectator*.

Literature.

LIFE OF FREDERICK II., EMPEROR OF THE ROMANS.*

The history of some men is the history of the times in which they live. In such cases, biography and history become almost identical. When the history of a period can thus be brought into one focus, and epitomised in the history of a single man, the historical epoch thus depicted becomes more clear and definite,—less vague and indeterminate in its relations and characteristics. There is, however, always a danger in thus blending history and biography; lest, on the one hand, the historical point of view should be too much narrowed to the dimensions of a single hero; lest, on the other hand, the man himself, whose life is supposed to be equivalent to the life of his age, should lose his individuality, being sublimated into a shadowy and intangible historic crisis. The historical biographer naturally seeks to combine the advantages of these two kinds of narrative. He wishes history to be invested with the charm, the vivacity, the unity and distinctness that belong to the memoirs of an individual: he wishes also that biography should be dignified, raised, and adorned by being seen in the multitudinous lights and shadows of general human life.

In the history of Frederick II., Mr. Kington has aimed, and with a considerable amount of success, at giving such a view of his hero and of the times in which he lived, that each may illustrate and explain the other. Concerning the private life of Frederick II., indeed, there is not much to relate. We catch glimpses of him, and those not always of the most agreeable kind,—living in almost oriental state (not forgetting the harem), surrounded by sights and sounds of voluptuous beauty and enchantment, and attending to the most minute details affecting the government of his kingdom. But in all this we do not lose sight of the monarch—a veil is covered over his most private life. His history is the history of the first half of the thirteenth century. To understand him aright we must see him in his relations with all the civil and ecclesiastical powers and movements of Christendom and heathendom in his age; and, thus regarded, his career is one of the most brilliant ever recorded in history. The greatness of Frederick's character appears especially in the fact that his biography is the more interesting in proportion to the breadth of view in which he is regarded. His presence is not lost, his individuality is not absorbed, in the midst of the crowded and eventful scenes amidst which he moves. The figure of the principal character is always present and always conspicuous. His vices were cruelty, treachery, and licentiousness. His most characteristic virtue was inflexible justice in the administration of law, in punishing crime, and protecting the poor and weak from the oppression of the rich and strong. He was born to rule. By the spell of his presence he could quell disorder and revolt. His subjects were, for the most part, enthusiastically attached to him. He was liberal and conciliatory in his policy towards the nobility; equally great in peace and war; wise as a legislator, subtle in diplomacy, keen and sagacious in the management of business, so enlightened in commercial matters as to encourage a freedom of trade which it is the boast of our own times to have fully realised and carried out. Although he consulted astrologers and trembled under the anathemas of the Pope, yet he could show a tolerance almost amounting to sympathy with the rites of Mohammedanism, and utter jokes and sarcasms about Transubstantiation. It is true that he persecuted heretics; but he generally managed at the same time to punish rebels, and made very excellent political capital out of his zeal for orthodoxy and the Church. He was learned in philosophy and medicine, fond of sculpture, painting, and architecture, wrote indifferent verses himself, and appreciated the good poetry of Peter de Vineia and others. He took great pleasure in the society of entertaining or cultivated men, travellers, jesters, poets, philosophers, knights, lawyers, and could converse in their own or the Latin tongue with Arabs, Greeks, Italians, French, or Germans. He was fond of hunting in his sunny and genial Apulian plains; he wrote an elaborate Latin treatise on hawking, and attended himself to his hawks, falcons, dogs, and hunting leopards, as well as to his parks and fish ponds.

Frederick II. was born in 1194. He was early left an orphan. While yet a babe he was King

of Sicily and the Ward of Pope Innocent III. His earliest years were passed amidst Germans, Saracens, Tuscan, Normans, and Sicilians; he was handed over from one guardian to another, often endangered both in person and in position, but amidst all he obtained a liberal and varied education, and became prematurely learned in all the arts and devices of Statecraft. When eighteen years of age he was elected Emperor of Germany, and he left Sicily in order to establish his sway over the Princes and Prelates of his new Empire. After eight years he returned to Southern Italy, and spent another eight years there, reducing various rebels, Apulian, Sicilian, and Saracen, to obedience, and transplanting a colony of Saracens from Sicily, where they were mischievous foes or restless and uncertain friends, to Lucera, where they became useful and faithful allies. Then followed his Eastern Crusade, which he undertook when he had incurred the displeasure of the Pope. However, the excommunicated heretic, an outlaw and accursed in Christendom, did more by judicious treaties and arrangements to raise the credit of the Christian cause in the East than all the recognised champions of the Church had been able to effect by the force of their arms, fortified by the most unctuous benedictions of the Holy Father. After his return from the Holy Land he passed a few years of comparative tranquillity in his beloved Sicily and Apulia. The remainder of his life was troubled and stormy. His son Henry, whom he had left in Germany, revolted against him. But the severest conflicts were with the rebel cities of Lombardy, which had always been the most unsettled and factious portion of his dominions, and a nest for rebellious movements which broke out elsewhere. The Father of Christendom himself ultimately headed the quarrel. Italy became too hot for him, and he transferred his Court to Lyons, whence he issued anathemas and accusations of heresy and perfidy against Frederick, and encouraged all the powers of Europe to place themselves in antagonism to him. Fearful was the disorder and bloodshed of the last eleven or twelve years of Frederick's life; exasperated to madness by the charges that were launched against him, he issued elaborate and earnest vindications of his character and orthodoxy, and outwardly defied the thunder which yet in his heart he regarded with anger mixed with terror. Frederick died in 1250, and the strife in which he spent his last years lingered on for some eighteen years longer, when Conrad, the last of the Hohenstaufen race, perished on a scaffold at Naples. The Popes finally triumphed, and it was well for mankind that they did.

The primary blunder was committed by Innocent III., when he sanctioned the election of young Frederick, then only King of Sicily, to be Emperor of Germany. All the strife and bloodshed of the Guelph and Ghibelline feud aimed at the undoing of that fatal deed. The consequences, indeed, have haunted Italy up to our own day. The struggle to cast off the yoke of Germany has not yet entirely ceased: the Guelph and Ghibelline controversy is now represented by the Austrian possession of Venice. The watchword of the Guelphs was freedom and the Pope; that of the Ghibellines was order and the Emperor. Every city and town in Northern Italy had representatives of these two parties, but the towns in which the Guelph interest predominated were Genoa, Milan, Venice, Bologna, and Perugia, while the Ghibellines prevailed in Pisa, Cremona, Padua, Modena, and Siena. Each could point to great social and political evils to justify its policy. The Guelph pointed to a heretical Emperor, destroying Italian nationality, defying the Holy Father himself, and bringing hordes of Germans and Saracens to reduce their country to slavery. The Ghibelline pointed to the dismembered condition of the country; every petty town or city asserting its own political independence, and waging bitter and bloody warfare with neighbouring towns,—families torn asunder by unnatural strife,—and all because there was no master spirit to bring order out of this confusion, and unite all the separate interests into one. Doubtless there was much to say on both sides. The whole state of society was unsettled, and, perhaps, each party in the strife aimed at a good thing, but defeated itself by its fierce passions and lawless measures. The party of freedom would have produced anarchy, the party of order would have established tyranny. So long as the elements of a social and civil constitution are present in the midst of a people, however wild and irregular its condition may outwardly appear, anarchy is undoubtedly better than tyranny. Of these two terrible evils fermentation is more hopeful than stagnation. Out of the chaos order may ultimately emerge; but in the illusive calm of despotism the fictitious order is mistaken for a living reality, and national life undergoes slow but sure decay. Therefore do we say, that it was well that the Popes triumphed,

and that the ambitious dreams of the Hohenstaufen ruler were destined to fail of their fulfilment. What the consequences to Rome itself might have been if Frederick's aim had been accomplished, is skilfully pointed out by Mr. Kington.

"The danger in 1239 was no common one. What Rome would have become, had Frederick the Second been allowed to hold on in his victorious career, may be seen by the analogous instances of Constantinople and Moscow. The spiritual power would have been the slave of the temporal ruler. The Pope would have sunk into a mere puppet in the hands of the Emperor; a mere registrar of the decrees of Augustus. Frederick, like the present Czar, would have enjoyed absolute sway over both clergy and laity—over souls as well as bodies. The Bark of St. Peter would have been driven to hoist fresh colours. The Banner of the Keys would have been hauled down, and would have been replaced by the Eagle of the Hohenstaufens. All grand visions of Empire, reaching into the uttermost parts of the earth, would have come to an end. The Papal system would have been broken up long before its appointed time. It is not likely that foreign princes would have remained content to obey a Bishop who was but a tool in the hands of an Emperor already far too powerful. The planets, therefore, would have ceased to revolve around the sun. Canterbury, Rheims, Granada, and Toledo, would each have usurped a portion of the authority of Rome. The proud prelates of Germany would have claimed equality with the successors of St. Peter. All the dazzling dreams of Hildebrand and Innocent would have failed of their realisation. The Bishop of Rome, shorn of his temporal power, would have had to content himself with figuring in great pageants at the Imperial pleasure; and his aggressive movements would have been restricted to an occasional wrangle with the Greek Patriarch on the Filioque or the Azyma."—Vol. II., pp. 101-2.

Mr. Kington "asks the indulgence of the public for an author's first attempt." We think that all the readers of these volumes will find most auspicious promise in a writer who can at once place himself in honourable companionship with the splendid group of original historians who have enriched our literature and cast a lustre over our national character within the last ten or twenty years. Mr. Kington has made use of a large mass of chronicles and documents published within the last ten years. He has used them well, though perhaps, for those who desire to study his work carefully, and use it as a guide to more extended research, he might with advantage have been a little more liberal and exact in his reference to authorities in the body of the work. Sometimes too we are inclined to think that he encumbers his pages with too many minute facts, which are of no historical interest or importance. His style is always clear, accurate, and dignified, occasionally it becomes highly animated and eloquent. He gathers force as he proceeds in his narrative. In the earlier portions he is even, sometimes, tame and unimpressive; but as the events to be recorded become more momentous and the interests involved more vast and complicated, his narrative becomes brighter and more vivacious, and he seems to use his materials with greater consciousness of power. We should add that there is a copious table of contents, and an index of sixty pages, ample and excellently arranged; the names of the various princes, in Church and State, being placed, in chronological order, under the territory or fraternity ruled by them. We thank Mr. Kington most heartily for his valuable book, and confidently expect even greater things in the future.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

The Primary School. By W. J. UNWIN, M.A., Principal of Homerton College. Part First: School Management. London: Longman.—The name of Mr. Unwin is a sufficient guarantee for the value of this manual to all who are interested in the subject with which it deals. In the words of the preface, the author has been "long interested in the work of popular education, and for the past fifteen years it has almost exclusively occupied his thoughts." So that these pages "are a record of personal experience." It is only necessary for us to state what it is the book professes to deal with. First, then, we have a clear and full statement of the principles of primary instruction; together with a vindication of the non-governmental position. On this latter point, there will be of course great difference of opinion. For ourselves, we confidently look forward to a time, when men will as naturally buy a schooling for their children as clothing; but meanwhile there is no denying that the "Voluntary system has found it easier" to supply a thorough and somewhat superior primary "education to the upper, than to bring it within the reach of the lower strata of the 'labouring classes.'" And this will be so till it becomes universally felt that the claims of the mind, though less noisy and importunate, are no less really urgent than those of the body.

These introductory chapters consist to a large extent of quotations; and those from the men best qualified to speak in their several departments. Among them are Lord Stanley, Edward Miall, Dr. Marle, J. K. Shuttleworth, the Bishop of London, M. Vinet, &c. The remainder, and perhaps more useful part of the volume, occupied with the details of school management, is entirely by Mr. Unwin. It furnishes minute and ample guidance as to the erection and ventilation and furniture of the school-room; the laying out of play-

* *History of Frederick the Second, Emperor of the Romans.* From Chronicles and Documents published within the last ten years. By T. L. KINGTON, M.A. 2 vols., 8vo. Macmillan and Co., London and Cambridge. 1862.

grounds, and general practical working of the school. Some of the minuter sanitary directions may seem needlessly particular: and indeed, where perfectly carried out must inevitably present a strange contrast to the utter neglect of all sanitary conditions too often displayed in the dwellings from which the children come. But then, it is very little more trouble to adhere to definite standard in these points, than to be quite without rule; and it is desirable that the school-room should be a kind of model building in all such respects; so as itself to become an instrument of physical education. We know the Privy Council of Education have sometimes attached a ludicrous degree of importance to little matters of this kind; but Mr. Unwin has no fear of that august body before his eyes; and his instructions therefore have an independent value. Some excellent plans of school-buildings, furniture, playgrounds, &c., are added.—*Nature's Normal School: The True Model for a National Education.* By JAMES GALL. (Edinburgh: Gall and Inglis.) The name of James Gall takes us back at once to the very infancy of popular education. Many of his principles—such as a reliance upon the thinking power, rather than the mechanical memory, of learners, the remarkable effectiveness of the catechetical method, the superiority of the sympathising teacher over the mere "dominie" or "pedagogue," and in music, the constant appeal to the natural relations of sounds to the key-note rather than to difficult artificial symbols—have since the time when he began to advocate them become the acknowledged axioms of our intelligent schoolmasters. Whatever such a veteran has to say deserves respectful hearing. If it should seem that some parts of this treatise are a little out of date, especially those which embody the results of experiments in teaching, however important, made some thirty or forty years ago, they yet have their value as the records of a life spent in singular devotion to a noble work. "The writer is fully aware," he tells us modestly and touchingly in his preface, "of his own deficiency, and has no doubt that repetitions and errors of style will be found in this little work, [which he casts like 'bread upon the waters'; but when it is remembered that the 'snows of nearly fourscore winters have now passed over his head, he has no doubt that both his friends and the public will look with a lenient eye on its many imperfections." But whatever those imperfections may be, the book is one which we should gladly see in the hands of every teacher. Its spirit of love and gentle enthusiasm must ever be young and ever refreshing; and it forms an interesting and encouraging monument of the progress which popular education has made during the last half-century.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

A School Atlas of General and Descriptive Geography. By A. KEITH JOHNSTON, F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S.N. A new edition. (Edinburgh and London: Blackwood and Sons.) When Mr. Johnston first undertook the construction of a School Atlas, existing works were for the most part, very unsatisfactory, and little suited to the improvement that had for some time been gradually effected in geographical manuals for educational use. Especially were the maps of Europe and Western Asia defective in the representation of the present political divisions of their countries; while the map of Northern America had long failed to keep pace with the progress of the two divisions of the Anglo-Saxon race there; and the map of Australia—which every recent five years have changed more than centuries have changed the maps of older countries of the world—gave no intelligible account of the new British empire extending and developing itself there. Maps might as well be excluded altogether from the school-room, unless they represent fully and accurately the geographical facts of the time, unless they are readily interpretative of what the pupil learns from his class-book. But, how many teachers know that the hand atlases available for many years were antiquated, incorrect, and ill-executed; fitted chiefly to repel a pupil, and to beget disgust at geography, by the crowded, blurred, and confused mass of lines and names through which he had to grope his painful way. Not a few efforts to amend this state of things had been commendably made by various geographers, when Mr. Johnston surpassed them all by a work worthy of his eminent reputation, as the author of those great National Atlases of Physical and Political Geography, which, for beauty, authority, and completeness, are the most perfect ever produced in any land. His School Atlas, now issued in a new edition, is also the perfection of clearness, beauty, and intelligibility. Its features are, a size of plate admitting distinctness of outline, fulness of detail, and plainness of lettering,—the ground is coloured, with the names belonging to it in black, while all the waters and the names belonging to them are uniformly printed in blue, thus greatly assisting the eye and saving a scholar from many perplexities,—a series of scales, by which the relative size of countries may at once be perceived, and comparisons be instituted between them,—the insertion on the borders of the maps, usually left blank, of the names of countries and celebrated places corresponding in latitude and longitude, thus affording valuable suggestions as to physical geography. All the geographical information is brought down to the present time,—except in the kingdom of Italy, the boundaries of which are left unsettled by the present condition of the Roman question. It strikes us as a little

curious that Mr. Johnston should have given Scotland and Ireland on a larger scale than England, "from the importance of these countries to the British student"; but we can understand the same enlarging of scale for Palestine and Switzerland "on account of their great historical interest." It is a pleasure to pupils to use an atlas like this; and we have had opportunities of observing that where it is used, the school-room hatred of maps is changed into a delight in lingering, even in leisure hours, over its bright and attractive-looking pages. There is an index of forty pages, containing every name in the several maps, with references to the number of the map on which each will be found, together with the latitude and longitude. It is a work absolutely perfect in its kind.—*An Easy English Grammar for Beginners; being a plain Doctrine of Words and Sentences.* Book the First. Herbert Series. By J. M. D. MEIKLEJOHN, M.A. (Ireland and Co., London and Manchester.) It is not easy to be original in treating of English grammar, and yet Mr. Meiklejohn has managed to be so. The little book before us displays, moreover, a thorough acquaintance with the subject, and sympathy with the work, of teaching. Yet we think it has grave faults. In the first place, fun seems to us out of place in a book on English grammar. Let the teacher put as much fun—impromptu and living—into his lessons, as he pleases; if thereby he may succeed in fixing the attention of his pupils. So far we quite agree with Mr. Meiklejohn's elegant mottoes—about sugaring the rim of the medicine-cup, and using the gentle suasion of pastry and sweets. We shall not be suspected of wishing to exclude from the class-room the healthy stimulus of amusement, and appeal to our several weeks' list of Christmas books for boys and girls against any such ungenial indictment. But to do any good it must be spontaneous. And only think how ineffectually stale must that joke about little boys being "inflected centrally or in their extremities" become to the unfortunate teacher who has to force the unwilling muscles into a grin for the hundred-and-first time! No; Mr. Meiklejohn must be content to let his teachers manufacture their own jokes, and hunt up their own funny illustrations. Apart from this we object to some novelties introduced, especially to the constant use of such compound words as "noun-joining," "noun-marking," "sentence-connecting," &c. This seems to us to be teaching the use of downright bad English. We also object to the statement that "there are five cases" of substantives, as an unnecessary and perplexing refinement. But the subject is a particularly difficult one, and it may certainly be pleaded in defence of Mr. Meiklejohn's arrangement, that it can present no difficulty to boys and girls who learn Latin. Further, we should recommend teachers to stick to the old tradition of three degrees of comparison in spite of Mr. Meiklejohn's newly-discovered "Sub-positive"—plausibly and cleverly supported as it is by the example of such a word as *whitish*. He deprecates our too hastily condemning his definition of a preposition as a "joining word," as he has some new light to cast upon the point by-and-by. We have not the slightest doubt that he will make an ingenious defence of his position; but it is a little humiliating to think that we must wait for the issue of a later number of the "Herbert Series of Schoolbooks" before we can be sure we know what a preposition is! For all this there is a great deal in the book, small as it is, that is admirable for clearness and freshness, and the author's patience as well as liveliness of teaching is testified to by the copious collection of exercises and examples appended. Teachers will find this a capital sixpennyworth.—*Modern Geography: Descriptive, Political, and Physical.* By W. J. UNWIN, M.A., Principal of Homerton College. First Part—Descriptive. (London: Longman and Co.) This is a first geography,—not indeed for mere children, for it contains all the essential matter of a manual of scientific geography, so far as it extends,—but a first geography, because it takes up the descriptive elements only, and is the proper companion to a first study of maps. After necessary preliminaries on the land and water of the earth, and on the boundaries and physical divisions of the several continents, Mr. Unwin takes up each continent separately, and describes it as to position and limits; as to its relation to the ocean—its seas, gulfs, &c., and its coast line; as to its mountain systems, and its plains; as to its drainage—primary water-sheds, smaller divisions of the slopes, the lakes, and the principal rivers, divided according to the ocean basins. Following in much the improved model which modern geographies of the higher order have adopted, it has yet characteristics of its own: and is especially to be commended for the full and clear development of the mountain systems and the waterpartings and rivers. With such a handbook and good maps, the general geography of any continent, with the distribution and position of great and marking features, will be apprehended with a readiness wholly unknown to the pupils of Guy, Goldsmith, and White, in our own school days. Mr. Unwin has written very clearly,—and it is not always easy to put a geographical relation into words that give a mental map of the fact,—and has nowhere wasted an unnecessary word on his material. In all classes in which we have tested it, we find the latest information incorporated. Its brevity and intelligibility should commend it to middle-class schools; and it may be hoped that Mr. Unwin will speedily produce the following parts of the work, on physical and political geography.—*First Lessons in the Evidences of Chris-*

tianity. By B. B. WOODWARD, B.A., F.S.A. (London: Ward and Co.) The difference between this little book and others in which the Christian Evidences have been set forth to the minds of children, is, that it treats the subject without any reference, whatever to opponents of the truth of the Bible and the Christian doctrine. The author says, and we sympathise perfectly with him, that "It has been thought possible truthfully to pre-possess the minds of children with the Evidences of Christianity; and so to forearm them against the assaults to which the faith of most persons is, in this active age, exposed." Some may think—the would-be candid and impartial—that on such a subject even children should be made aware of the existence of opposed opinion, and of the grounds taken up against the views inculcated on them. It is not enough, they may say, nor is it fair, to prepossess the mind in favour of any conclusion: such was the allegation made to Coleridge by one who was bringing his children up without any prepossessions in favour of belief in a God and immortality; whom Coleridge rebuked by looking out into the well-kept garden, saying, "Is it fair to pre-possess the soil in favour of flowers?" Mr. Woodward has written very interestingly; has condensed much fact and argument into a simple and forcible statement; and has brought out all the great points of his subject with precision and power. The distribution of his matter is original; and the historical and moral arguments co-operate to a well-defined conclusion. There are others besides children to whom this little work may be serviceable: but we heartily wish it may have the place it deserves in the thorough religious instruction of the young. It is both good private reading, and an excellent manual for schools. Intelligent teachers might make important and very interesting use of it in the higher classes of Sunday-schools.—*The Progressive English Reading Book.* Book the Second. By T. and F. BULLOCK. (Manchester: J. Heywood. London: Simpkin.) An attempt is here made to graduate reading lessons, so that both the ideas and the range of words shall widen as the lessons advance. It is purposely adapted to "childish minds" and is therefore chiefly "in a light and playful manner." Some of the lessons are selected from popular writers; others have been written with reference to the special purpose of the book. It is by no means serviceable to children to give them divisions of words that are not to be regarded in pronunciation. Thus *u-sed, of-fer-ed, bray-ed, trudg-ed, &c.*, are misleading; while *in-to, ve-ry, af-ter*, and similar words, should not need such division at the end of a second progressive reading-book. The book is better fitted, however, to the real capacities of children in common day-schools, than some of greater pretensions.—*Willie's Home Exercises.* By T. WARD. (Manchester: J. Heywood. London: Simpkin.) Boys and youths of the working classes who will give an evening hour to self-education are here supplied with exercises on the most important elementary subjects. Each page presents three grades of questions, numbered in sets, which may be taken by the pupil consecutively, in the study of arithmetic, spelling, and composition. An expenditure of sixpence thus covers a supply of exercises in three subjects, sufficient for nearly half a year. But those in arithmetic, grammar, and derivation of words are not accompanied by any explanation, which must be sought elsewhere.

The Wearmouth Abbots: a Tale Illustrative of Saxon Christianity. Second Edition. By the Author of the "Rationale of Justification by Faith." London: Freeman.

This tale is written by one who has considerable acquaintance with the scene and age of his story, as well as sympathy with the forms in which religious life expressed itself in the interesting period of transition from heathendom to Christianity. As such it may be of use to our young friends, though wanting the life and freshness of a real story. It has reminded us in its mode of treatment of a volume entitled, "Scenes of 'Christian Life' (written, we believe, by a lady), which some of our readers may remember; but falls short of the pathos and truth of colour which characterised those beautiful sketches. The author informs us in a somewhat pretentious preface that the tale is "fitted only for grave and thoughtful readers," and that if taken up "to while away an hour of ennui," the probable result will be "disappointment." The latter part of the admonition is certainly true: as for the former, it would have been better to leave the readers to find it out for themselves. It appears to be written for the most part in good taste: but one sensation passage has caught our eye. Of course the author could not mean that in an effort made by one of the characters, Herbert, to save life from a shipwreck, was exhibited the spectacle of weakness "in conflict with Omnipotence"—"the finite struggling with the Infinite." Only the temptation to "fine writing" was too strong to be resisted.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Biblical Orientalisms; or, Scripture Science for Sacred Hours. By the Author of "Steps to the Bible Mine." (Ward and Co.) This is a packet of fifty-two cards, with directions how to use them as a social game, or exercise in Scripture study. The design is to give illustrations of some peculiarities of the inspired volume, which eminently bear the stamp of its Eastern origin. Many important facts, very interesting illustrations of obscure allusions, instances of

manners and customs, and engaging anecdotes, have been selected. Used as a relief from reading books, these cards may give variety and pleasantness to the mother's Sunday afternoon with her children, or to the teacher's efforts for the improvement and enjoyment of the day.—*Sunday Book for Young People; Familiar Colloquies between a Father and his Children.* By J. M. HARE. (Ward and Co.) Another book for the intervals of Sunday worship, at home or at school; and prepared with great care and intelligence. The subjects are,—“Bethany,” “The Last Days of Jesus,” “The Twelve Disciples,” and “Simon Peter.” The conversations are lively and natural. A large amount of varied and valuable information is pleasantly conveyed. The interest is sustained admirably. For young people of some education it is the best book of the kind that we know.—*Arthur Merton. A Story for the Young.* By Mrs. J. B. WEBB. (A. Hall and Co.) In this story we have living people, in good scenes, speaking and acting naturally and interestingly. Arthur and Grace will not be readily forgotten by the young people who read the book. The tale is suited to all cultivated young persons; especially to those whose position may bring them much into society and permit them to see the world. Mrs. Webb is a practised writer, who has her recognised place as authoress of religious fiction,—her chief fault, here as elsewhere, being somewhat dilated and formal conversations. But the invention of this story is good; its variety considerable; its manner pleasing; and its moral gently impressive. It has, however, a slight thrust at Dissenters.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Parish Papers. Strahan and Co.—Speaking to the Heart. Strahan and Co.—Life in Heaven. Nimmo.—The Poet's Journal. Low, Son, and Co.—The Canoe and the Saddle. Low, Son, and Co.—The Golden Link. Low, Son, and Co.—The Channings. Bentley.—Missions in Polynesia. Snow. Children's Friend, Volume II. Seeleys.—Sunday-school Magazine, 1862. Sunday-school Union.—The Biblical Treasury, Volume III. Sunday-school Union.—The Bible-class Magazine. Sunday-school Union.—The British Controversialist for 1862. Houlston.—Lays from the Ingle Nook. Gallie.—Outlines of Modern Farming. Virtue Brothers.—Principles of Design in Architecture. Virtue Brothers.—The Garden Oracle. Groombridge.—The Commonplace Philosopher, &c. Parker, Son, and Bourn.—The Nest-hunters. A. Hall and Co.—The Closer Walk. Elliot.—Life in Nature. Smith, Elder, and Co.—Sisterhoods in the Church of England. Smith, Elder, and Co.—Analysis of In Memoriam. Smith, Elder, and Co.—Pastoral Recollections. Oliphant and Co.—Dramatic Passages, &c. Hogg and Son.—Look and Live. Shaw.—Self, its Dangers, &c. Shaw.—Laurie's Entertaining Library. Three First Numbers. Longman and Co.—The Pastor of Vliethuizen. Trübner.

Poetry.

BRITANNIA TO COLUMBIA.

Weep, weep, Columbia, for thy slaughter'd sons!
Thy elder sister weeps with thee, and wears
Thy sorrows in her heart, and in her prayers
Hourly commits thy orphan'd little ones
To the kind fatherhood of God, who owns
All for His children. Weep, sister, pray and weep;
And I will weep with thee, and pray, and keep
Communion with thee in thy tears and groans.
Perchance from mutual sorrow mutual love
May start, and grow to a diviner height,
And all the beauty of our lives begin;
As those who in their wanton spirits strove
Join hands across an open grave, and light
Breaks o'er them from the darken'd eyes within.

W. KENT.

THE NEW YEAR.

He came in darkness and silence—he
On whom our hopes hang tremblingly!
Yet with a halo of radiant light
Marking his way through the solemn night.
Timidly, wondrously, “Stranger,” we said,
“Mystery encircles thy infant head.”
We know thou art missioned from our Lord
With some glorious work, with some mighty word!
Couldst thou but lip out our destiny,
And tell: Wilt thou set the nations free?
Graciously smiled he, as he would say,
O man, go lovingly on thy way;
Earnestly, hope-fully working still—
Prepared, and armed for good will.

Ashurst Wood, January, 1863.

Cleanings.

Some instances of garrotting have occurred at Liverpool.

Sunday evening services have been commenced at Peterborough Cathedral.

A project is on foot for constructing an underground railway from the Haymarket to the Great Northern Terminus at King's-cross.

Mr. John Patrick Somers, who has for many years represented the borough of Sligo, has just died at the age of sixty-two.

The emigration from Liverpool for 1862 exceeded that of 1861 by about 10,000 souls. Emigration in 1862, 64,314; 1861, 55,029.

When Rabelais was on his death-bed, a consultation of physicians was called. “Dear gentlemen,” said the wit to the doctors, raising his languid head, “let me die a natural death.”

The life-boat at Braunton Lighthouse, North Devon, was, on Friday night, the means of rescuing twenty-eight persons from the wreck of the *Louisa*, of Appledore.

It is stated that Mr. Peter Morrison is living at Bruges, Rue Espagnol, in first-rate style, and that

the soi-disant Colonel Sleight may daily be seen walking in the streets of Paris.

The man who returned a borrowed book was seen the other day walking in company with the young lady who passed a mirror without taking a peep. It is believed they are engaged.

Mr. Paul Morphy, the celebrated chess-player, has arrived in Paris, having slipped through the blockade and reached Europe by way of the Havannah. He has returned a devoted Southerner.

Remember that every person, however low, has rights and feelings. In all contentions let peace be rather your object than triumph. Value triumph only as the means of peace.—*Sydney Smith.*

Some one was comparing Addington's powers with Pitt's, which roused George Canning's sense of the ludicrous, and he exclaimed—

Pitt is to Addington
As London is to Paddington.

A SHERRY COBBLER.—“Pray, Sir, of what profession are you,” said Mr. Edwin James, to a witness who had come prepared to prove a fact, and who was not deemed a very respectable gentleman. “Sir, I am a shoemaker and a wine-merchant.” “A what, sir?” said the learned counsel. “A wine-merchant and shoemaker.” Then said Mr. James, “I may describe you as a sherry cobbler.”

A LUCKY EDITOR.—The *Stockport Advertiser* of Friday contains the following:—“The Editor begs most respectfully to thank the following kind Readers for their several Christmas presents:—‘A. H. S.’ a fine hare;—‘T. H.’ a beautiful fat goose;—‘J. H. L.’ (of London), a large barrel of oysters;—‘J. L.’ (also of London), a small barrel; and ‘S. R.’ a brace of fine pheasants.”

FORGIVENESS.—We heard from a Sunday-school teacher lately an illustration of one kind of Christian forgiveness. Improving upon the day's lesson, the teacher asked the boy whether, in view of what he had been studying and repeating, he could forgive those who wronged him. “Could you,” said the teacher, “forgive a boy, for example, who had insulted or struck you?” “Yes, sir,” replied the lad, very slowly, “I guess—I could”; but he added, in a much more rapid manner, “I could if he was much more bigger than I am!”

SCARCELY A JOKE.—September 1st.—Took a ride early this morning over the Long Bridge. As I was passing out of the earthwork called a fort on the hill, a dirty German soldier called out from the parapet, “Pun-Run Russell! you shall never write Pull's Run again,” and at the same time cocked his piece and levelled it at me. I immediately rode round into the fort, the fellow still presenting his firelock, and asked what he meant, at the same time calling for the sergeant of the guard, who came at once, and, at my request, arrested the man, who recovered arms, and said, “It was a choke—I want to frecken Pull-Run Russell.” However, as the rifle was capped and loaded, and on full cock, with his finger on the trigger, I did not quite see the fun of it, and I accordingly had the man marched to the tent of the officer, who promised to investigate the case, and make a formal report to the brigadier, and on my return to lay the circumstances before him. On reflection I thought it was best to let the matter drop; the joke might spread, and it was quite unpleasant enough as it was to bear the insolent looks and scowling faces of the guards at the posts, to whom I was obliged to exhibit my pass whenever I went out to ride.—*My Diary North and South, by William H. Russell.*

NAMES TO BE GOT RID OF.—A Mr. Alfred Buggey, who is dissatisfied with his name, and complains of the difficulties to be encountered in changing it, in order to prove how reasonable it is to demand that some cheap and simple process should be clearly and universally recognised as legal and sufficient for the change of names among the middle and lower classes, annexes a list of surnames which a friend of his has actually extracted from the wills in the Prerogative Court in Doctors' Commons. The list is as follows, and is certainly curious:—“Asse, Bub, Belly, Boots, Cripple, Cheese, Cockles, Dance, Dam, Drinkmike, Dof, Flashman, Fat, Ginger, Goose, Beaste, Barehead, Bunglar, Bugg, Buggey, Bones, Cheeke, Clod, Cod, Demon, Fend, Funck, Frogge, Ghost, Greedy, Hiag, Humpe, Holdwater, Headache, Jugs, Jelly, Idle, Kneebone, Kidney, Licie, Lame, Lazy, Leaky, Maypole, Mule, Monkey, Milkop, Mudd, Honeybum, Maydenhead, Mug, Piddle, Paswater, Pisse, Prickemall, Pricke, Phisicke, Pighead, Pot, Poker, Poopy, Prigge, Pigge, Punch, Proverbs, Quicklove, Quash, Radish, Rump, Rawbone, Rottengoose, Swette, Shish, Sprat, Sheartlife, Stiffe, Squibb, Sponge, Stubborne, Swine, Shittel, Shave, Shrimps, Shirt, Skim, Squalah, Silly, Shoe, Smelt, Skull, Spattel, Shadow, Snaggs, Spittle, Teate, Taylocoate, Villain, Vittels, Vile, Whale.”

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

MORRIS.—Nov. 9, at the London Mission-house, Salem, South India, the wife of the Rev. W. E. Morris, of a daughter.

HARDIN.—Dec. 21, at Towcester, Northamptonshire, the wife of the Rev. Henry Hardin, Baptist minister, of a daughter.

SELBIE.—Dec. 24, at Chesterfield, the wife of the Rev. R. W. Selbie, B.A., of a son.

SKEATS.—Jan. 5, at 40, London-road, Croydon, the wife of Mr. H. S. Skeats, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HOWARD—GILL.—Dec. 24, at London-road Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. R. W. McAll, Mr. Peter Howard, to Miss Hepzibah Gill.

FOX—WOOD.—Dec. 25, at London-road Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. R. W. McAll, Mr. George Fox, to Miss Harriett Wood.

SIMPSON—STEEL.—Dec. 25, at the Independent Chapel, Southport, by the Rev. J. E. Millson, Mr. W. Simpson, to Miss Ann Steel, both of Southport.

TASKER—SPENCER.—Dec. 25, at the Independent Chapel, Southport, by the Rev. J. E. Millson, Mr. John Tasker, to Miss Mary Ann Spencer, of Southport.

FIRCLOUGH—WINROW.—Dec. 25, at the Independent Chapel, Southport, by the Rev. J. E. Millson, Mr. Thomas Firclough, to Miss Mary Winrow, of Southport.

WARD—ROBINSON.—Dec. 25, at the Congregational Chapel, Lombard-street, Newark, by the Rev. T. B. Attenborough, Mr. William Ward, to Miss Annie Robinson.

NEWSTEAD—BURDIN.—Dec. 25, at the Congregational Chapel, Newark, by the Rev. T. B. Attenborough, Mr. Anthony Newstead, to Miss Elizabeth Burdin.

BUTLER—JOHNSON.—Dec. 25, at the Congregational Chapel, Newark, by the Rev. T. B. Attenborough, Mr. Thomas Butler, to Miss Ellen Johnson.

BOND—CLARK.—Dec. 25, at Great George-street Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. J. Fowler, Mr. Edward Bond, to Miss M. A. Clark, both of Caton, near Lancaster.

NOLLER—CUBITT.—Dec. 25, at Prince's-street Chapel, Norwich, by the Rev. J. Alexander, Mr. George Noller, of London, to Mary Ann, second daughter of Mr. J. C. Cubitt, Julian-place, Highbury.

STRONGMAN—BROWN.—Dec. 25, at the Baptist Chapel, Market-Harborough, Mr. James Strongman, to Miss Ann Brown.

SILVEY—DANIELLS.—Dec. 25, at the Tabernacle, Wotton-under-Edge, by the Rev. John Glanville, Mr. Wm. Silvey, of North Nibley, to Miss Emma Daniels, of Wotton-under-Edge.

FLETCHER—PEARCE.—Dec. 25, at Cambridge-heath Congregational Church, by the Rev. Edwin Davies, Mr. Fletcher, to Miss Pearce, both of Hackney.

COX—DENNIS.—Dec. 27, at the Baptist Chapel, Crayford, Kent, John Cox, to Eliza Emma Dennis, of Bexley-heath.

TOMALIN—DIX.—Dec. 27, at the Congregational Chapel, Henley-on-Thames, by the Rev. James Rowland, William Tomalin, to Louisa Dix.

BENNETT—TIMPSON.—Dec. 27, at Lee Chapel, High-road, Lee, Kent, by the Rev. R. H. Martin, B.A., Henry Bennett, Esq., to Ruth Kate, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Timpson, both of Lewisham.

BARKER—HARRIS.—Dec. 30, at Wells-street Chapel, Coventry, by the Rev. P. C. Barker, M.A., LL.B., assisted by the Rev. Thomas Green, M.A., of Ashton-under-Lyne, Mr. John S. Barker, B.A., of Spalding, to Jane, only daughter of G. T. Harris, Esq., of Birmingham.

LAING—BOYD.—Dec. 30, at Salem Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. G. Miall, Mr. George Laing, of the Royal Engineers, to Miss Jessie Boyd, of Bradford.

BATEMAN—SMITH.—Dec. 31, at the Independent Chapel, Ryecroft, Ashton-under-Lyne, by the Rev. J. Stokes, John, eldest son of Mr. James Bateman, to Ellen, only daughter of Mr. William Smith, both of Ashton.

WRIGLEY—HEYWORTH.—Dec. 31, at the Baptist Chapel, West-street, Rochdale, by the Rev. E. C. Pike, Mr. Edmund Wrigley, of Smallbridge, to Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Mr. Francis Heyworth, of Bacup.

HEARFIELD—BARKER.—Dec. 31, at Bridge-end Chapel, Brighouse, by the Rev. R. Harley, George, eldest son of Mr. John Hearfield, Storris House, to Sarah, second daughter of Mr. Robert Barker, tanner, all of Otley.

PARTINGTON—FARNWORTH.—Jan. 1, at the Independent Chapel, Little Lever, by the Rev. E. Pickford, Mr. Samuel Partington, of Little Lever, to Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. John Farnworth, of Little Bolton.

DRAPER—STEPHENSON.—Jan. 1, at Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. S. Simpson, Mr. William Draper, to Sarah, daughter of the late Mr. David Stephenson, steward to F. S. Powell, Esq., Horton-green.

SHORT—CHARLTON.—Jan. 1, at Hare-court Chapel, Canonbury, by the Rev. A. Raleigh, M.A., Mr. Thomas Short, of Ashley-place, Bristol-road, Birmingham, to Isabella Charlton, of Elm House, Enfield, sister of the Rev. J. M. Charlton, M.A., President of the Western College, Plymouth. No cards sent.

PHAIR—GREEN.—Jan. 1, at the parish church, Westmeon, by the Rev. Mr. Bradford, Mr. John Clayton Phair, eldest son of the late Rev. J. W. Phair, of Great Wakering, Essex, to Annabella Green, daughter of H. Green, Esq., Westmeon, Hants. No cards sent.

POCHIN—LINNEY.—Jan. 1, by licence, at York-street Chapel, Walworth, by the Rev. G. W. M'Cree, Mr. S. D. Pochin, of Wigston Magna, to Rebekah, daughter of Mr. Wm. Linney, of Pailton, Warwickshire.

WOOD—STEAD.—Jan. 3, at Queen-street Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. W. Thomas, Mr. Edwin Wood, blanket raiser, of Staincliffe, near Batley, to Miss Elizabeth Stead.

DEATHS.

CHEEK.—Dec. 19, at Evesham, after a protracted illness, John Mosely Gilbert Cheek, Esq., a magistrate of the county of Worcester and borough of Evesham. In his boyhood he was employed in the office of Sir John Easthope, to whose assistance and his own industry and talents he owed his success in life. He was in his ninety-first year, lived to see his fifth generation, and died deservedly respected.

SMITH.—Dec. 22, at Dudley, Worcestershire, Agnes, relict of Mr. Robert Smith, late of Wolverhampton, and mother of the Rev. James Smith, M.A., of Hamburg, Germany, aged sixty-nine.

INGLE.—Dec. 25, at Willingham, Cambs, Mr. William Ingle, sen., timber and coal merchant, grocer, and draper, &c., &c., in his seventieth year, greatly respected by all who knew him.

CHRISTIAN.—Dec. 27, in Mosely-road, deeply regretted, Caroline Julia, the beloved wife of Mr. Francis Christian, aged forty-seven years. Her end was peace.

CHAPMAN.—Dec. 27, at his residence, Islington, the Rev. John Chapman, B.D., Secretary to the Church Missionary Society, aged forty-nine.

WILLIAMS.—Dec. 31, at Balham, Surrey, in the sixty-ninth year of her age, Caroline Eliza, the beloved wife of Mr. Thos. Sydney Williams, formerly of Hamburg.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS—GLOWING HEALTH.—The most formidable assailants of health are ever haunting humanity during winter, and can only be outmatched by keeping the blood pure and every organ up to its work. Holloway's Pills accomplish this with unerring certainty. Biliousness, loss of appetite, sick-headache, and lowness of spirits, are all removed by a course of this admirable medicine, whose balsamic and healing virtues fortify the system, and may therefore be advantageously taken by the young, debilitated, and aged. These Pills strengthen the stomach and brace the nerves. They may always be relied upon as gentle laxatives or stronger purgatives, when the dose is regulated by attention to the directions enveloping each box, and which are intelligible to every one.—[Advertisement.]

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Jan. 5.

The supply of English wheat at this morning's market was small, but we have increased arrivals from abroad. The best samples of English wheat were selected at 1s per qr advance on the rates of this day's selling; the bulk of the supply, however, not being in good condition met a slow sale at about the same prices as this day week. Foreign is in fair demand, and realises the full prices of Monday last. The trade for flour was without alteration, and prices the same as last week. Peas and beans a dull sale, and most descriptions 1s per qr cheaper. Malting barley maintained its value: other sorts being more abundant, gave way 6d per qr. The arrival of

oats for the past week are short, and the trade was somewhat improved, at 6d per qr advance for good qualities. We have large arrivals of cargoes for orders at the ports of call. The business done in wheat and Indian corn to-day was at about the currency of Monday last. Barley is 6d per qr lower than last week.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7½d to 8d; household ditto, 5½d to 7d.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, Jan. 5.

For the time of year, our market to-day was fairly supplied with each kind of foreign stock; and its general quality was good. The supply of beasts from our own grazing districts was only moderate in number, but the quality and condition of most breeds were good, especially those at hand from Norfolk. On the whole sales progressed steadily, but at Thursday's decline in the quotations, of 2d per 8lbs. The top price for really superior Scots was 4s 10d per 8lbs. The Scotch beasts were for the most part in first-rate condition; but they were for the most part composed of crosses. There was a fair show of Irish beasts; but the demand for them was inactive, at rather lower prices. The receipts from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire comprised 1,800 Scots, shorthorns, and crosses; from the northern districts, 700 shorthorns; from other parts of England, 700 various breeds; from Scotland, 310 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 400 oxen and heifers. There was a very poor show of sheep in the pens, both as to number and quality. All breeds moved off freely, at quite last week's currency. Some very superior Downs realised 6s per 8lbs, and a good clearance was effected. The general top figure for mutton was 5s 10d per 8lbs. Calves—the supply of which was by no means extensive—sold at the late decline in value; and the trade was inactive. No quotable change took place in the value of pigs. The pork trade, however, was dull.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

a. d. s. d.	a. d. s. d.	a. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts, 2 to 3 4	Prime Southdown 5 8 to 5 10	
Second quality, 3 6 3 10	Lamb, 0 0 0 0	
Prime large oxen, 4 3 4 6	Lge. coarse calves 3 4 4 0	
Prime Scots, &c., 4 8 4 10	Prime small, 4 2 4 4	
Coarse inf. sheep, 3 8 4 2	Large hogs, 3 8 4 4	
Second quality, 4 4 4 10	Neatam, porkers, 4 6 4 8	
Pr. coarse wooled 5 0 5 6		

Smoking calves, 10s to 20s. Quarter-old store pigs, 20s to 25s ea h.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Jan. 5.

The arrivals of meat from Scotland and various parts of England to these markets was to a fair average extent. Good and prime qualities moved off steadily, at full prices; otherwise the trade is inactive, at our quotations.

Per 8lbs by the carcass.

a. d. s. d.	a. d. s. d.	a. d. s. d.
Inferior beef, 2 6 to 2 10	Small pork, 4 0 to 4 6	
Middling ditto, 3 0 3 6	Inf. mutton, 3 2 3 6	
Prime large do., 3 8 3 10	Middling ditto, 3 8 4 2	
Do. small do., 4 0 4 2	Prime ditto, 4 4 4 4	
Large pork, 3 4 3 10	Veal, 3 6 4 4	

PRODUCE MARKET, TUESDAY, Dec. 23.

TEA.—There has been a fair amount of business transacted in this market to-day for most descriptions, and prices were well maintained for the better qualities.

SUGAR.—The business transacted in this market has been to a small extent since last week's report, but prices have continued firm, and holders do not press sales. In the refined market dried goods are at fully last week's prices.

COFFEES.—The first auctions of the new year have gone with spirit in this market, and for plantation Ceylon descriptions an advance of 1s per cwt has been realised on the rates paid before Christmas. Native Ceylon experienced an advance of 6d.

RICE.—Only a small amount of business has been done in this market, without any change in values.

SALTPEPER.—The amount of business recorded in this market has been to a limited extent, and late prices are barely maintained.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Jan. 5.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,805 firkins butter, and 4,232 bales of bacon; and from foreign ports 9,721 casks butter, 7 bales and 69 boxes of bacon. The Irish butter market ruled very slow during the week, with the exception of the finest mild brands of Clonmel, &c., for which there was more inquiry. The mild wet weather has an effect on the general demand. Dutch declined 2s per cwt. The bacon market was steady, with at any alteration of moment to be noticed either in price or demand.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Jan. 5.—Full average supplies of home-grown potatoes have been on sale at these markets since our last report, and large quantities have again been received from foreign ports. In all qualities sales have progressed slowly, at about previous quotations. Last week's import amounted to 45 tons from Dorset, 232 tons from Rouen, 400 tons from Dunkirk, 125 tons from Boulogne, 92 tons from Dieppe, 14 packs from Bremen, and 4 bags from Brussels. Yorkshire Regents 90s to 120s, Yorkshire Flukes 120s to 140s, Yorkshire Rocks 75s to 90s, Kent and Essex Regents 100s to 130s, Scotch Regents 90s to 110s, Scotch Rocks 75s to 90s, Foreign 50s to 75s per ton.

WOOL, Monday, Jan. 5.—Owing chiefly to the holidays, the transactions in our market during the week, both for home use and export, have been on a very moderate scale. However, prices generally are well supported, and holders show no disposition to force sales. The want of the usual export demand is certainly not in favour of value.

SEEDS, Monday, Jan. 5.—The seed market is now showing more activity. Red seed meets more inquiry for all fine qualities at full prices; in some cases an improvement of 1s to 2s per qr is obtained. White cloverseed remains without alteration. Trefoils are fully as dear for all fine qualities of English.

OIL, Monday, Jan. 5.—Lined oil is in good demand, at 40s per cwt on the spot. Rape moves off steadily, and an advance of 6s per cwt has taken place in its value since our last. Cocoa-nut commands extreme rates; but olive and palm, as well as fish oils, are a slow sale. French spirits of turpentine are in fair request, at 95s to 96s per cwt.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c., Saturday, Jan. 3.—A steady business is doing in flax, and prices are well supported. Hemp is in fair average request, and the quotation is true firm, clean old Russian being worth 38l 10s to 39l, and clean new 37l 10s to 38l per ton. Jute moves off steadily, and a slight advance has taken place in its value. Coir goods command extreme rates.

COALS, Monday, Jan. 5.—A heavy market at the rates of last day. Hutton's 18s, South Hutton's 18s, Hartlepool 17s 9d, Trumdon Hartlepool 17s 6d, Hough Hall 16s, Hartleys 14s 6d, South Keel 17s, Russell Hutton's 10s 9d, Wylam 16s, Tanfield 15s 6d, Turnall 16s 6d. Fresh arrivals, 24; left from last day, 24.—Total, 60.

TALLOW, Monday, Jan. 5.—St. Petersburg Y.C. is in slow request, at 45s 9d per cwt on the spot, and 44s 6d for January to March, and 44s 9d for March delivery. Rough fat is selling at 2s 3d per cwt.

THE DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Rev. Thomas Adkin, Glossop. Rev. Andrew Reed, Preston.
Rev. A. Clark, Stockport. Rev. J. G. Rogers, Ashton.
Rev. W. H. Davidson, Bolton. Mr. W. Armitage, Manchester.
Rev. James Gwyther, Manchester. Mr. R. Kelsall, Rochdale.
Rev. J. B. Lister, Blackburn. C. Potter, Esq., Manchester.
Rev. N. B. Sutcliffe, Ashton.
TREASURER.—Mr. Henry Lee, Mosley-street, Manchester.
SECRETARIES.—
Rev. R. M. Davies, Oldham. Rev. William Roaf, Wigan.

We are requested by the Secretaries to make the following acknowledgments of sums received during the week ending Jan. 5, 1863:—

	£	s.	d.
Bradford, Eccleshill Chapel, per M. H. Taylor	6	4	6
Do. Salem Chapel, per Mrs. R. Yates	5	11	5
Halifax, Square Chapel, per Rev. R. Roberts	25	0	0
Do. Sunday-school	3	14	4
Newport, Mr. George White's box	1	1	7
Bishop Auckland	1	10	3
Sutton, Rev. J. Jacob	3	16	6
Birmingham, Bordesley-street Sunday-school Bible Class	1	9	8
Sheffield, Queen-street Chapel, Rev. P. Gladstone, weekly	7	7	4
Harwich, Rev. J. T. Barker	1	16	0
Deptford, Rev. J. Pulling	8	10	6
Hadwell and Clive, per Mr. D. James	5	10	0
Friends at Appleford	1	0	0
Bedford, Rev. J. Prothero	3	0	0
Matlock Bath, Rev. W. Tyler	2	0	0
Gateshead, per Mr. R. M'Queen	3	19	0
Wakefield, Salem Chapel, Rev. J. S. Eastmead	3	2	6
Manchester, George Hadfield, Esq., M.P.	50	0	0
Hornsea and Skipsea, Rev. T. Poole	10	6	6
Slough, Rev. G. Robbins (Sunday-school, 2s. 6d.)	8	19	0
London, Hare-court Chapel, Rev. A. Raleigh	7	11	6
Birkenhead, H. Currie, Esq.	10	0	0
Northfleet, Rev. E. Cooke, 2nd contribution	2	1	4
Wheatthamstead, Rev. W. Wainwright	3	4	6
Do. Sunday-school	0	5	8
Do. Lectures	1	11	0

St. Ives, Congregational Church, Rev. Thos. Lloyd	8	19	0
Do. Union Church	1	11	6
Oakhill, Independent Chapel and Sunday-school	7	3	0
Uffingham, Rev. J. Green	2	17	0
Do. Sunday-school	1	1	0
Galston, Rev. Clement Dukes	15	0	0
Kingsland, Rev. T. Aveling, weekly	15	0	0
The Quinta, Rev. J. D. Riley	7	18	9
South Shields, Rev. J. H. Toesdale (Sunday-school, 7s.)	8	7	0
Maldennewton and Sydlia, per Rev. H. Smith, 2nd monthly	2	6	0
Walsach, per Mr. E. R. Schofield	2	0	0
Weymouth, Rev. R. S. Ashton, 4th contribution	3	6	8
Uppermill, Rev. W. Burrows, 8 A.	4	0	0
Chester, Queen-street Chapel (School, 10s.)	5	18	6
C. Cliff, per Rev. Jos. Waite, 2nd contribution	8	1	0
Aberdeen, Blackfriars-street Chapel	7	7	0
Trowbridge Tabernacle, Rev. T. Mann	20	0	0
Plymouth, Union Chapel, Rev. C. B. Symes	6	9	8
Amble, Angles, per Rev. W. Jones	2	7	0
Ealing, Rev. W. Isaac	18	7	1
Editor of the Christian World	16	8	0
Birkenhead, Zion Welsh Chapel	3	8	8
Sums under 1l.	7	8	8

Lewes, Presbyterian School and Congregation, by Mr. Bedford	2	0	0
Goole, Sunday-school and friends, Rev. S. Gladstone	2	0	0
Fordingbridge, Rev. W. H. Barrett (Sunday-school, 1l. 5s.)	7	12	6
Woodford Wells, per Rev. J. Hooper	3	8	0
Lower Clapton, Rev. S. Seddon (?)	8	14	0
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2nd subscription, per Mr. Shepherdson	8	18	3
Barnet, Rev. S. Davies	6	0	0

Packages of clothing have been received during the week from Wakefield; Dr. Ferguson, London; Loughborough; Sheffield; Carmarthen; Weymouth; D. Edwards, Newport; Rev. R. Troop; Rev. B. S. Short; Rev. J. Burrell; Rev. Dr. Spence, Poultry; Rev. Jas. Buckpitt; W. Casson; Ware; Mr. Mason, Hastings; Rev. C. Hardy; Mr. T. P. Alder; Mr. C. Hafford, Rowell; Hartlepool; Gomerai; John Rawson, Esq.; Bradford, 7 packages; James Clarke, Esq.; Bolt-court; Canonbury; Mr. Henry Trigg; Mr. J. Jefferson; Rev. J. Barker, Leicester; Mr. J. Brough, Leek.

A statement of the operations of the Committee appeared in the last number of the Nonconformist. Ministers requiring copies of it may obtain them on application to the Rev. R. M. Davies, Oldham.

THE BAPTIST UNION and the LANCASHIRE DISTRESS.

The following is the list of Contributions forwarded during the past week to the Baptist Union Fund for the Relief of the Distress in Lancashire:—

	£	s.	d.
Oxford, by Rev. W. Allen	9	9	0
Bourton-on-the-Water, by Mr. Fidel	3	8	0
Oswestry Sunday-school, by Rev. E. Wilks	3	5	0
Wotton-under-Eggs, by Rev. H. Webber	5	0	11
Bamptn, by Rev. J. Rothery (with clothing)	3	10	0
North Shields, by M. Atkinson	2	10	0
Warrminster Sunday-school, by Rev. W. Jones	0	10	0
Salem Chapel, Stoke Newington, by J. R. Dodd	14	11	4
Editor of the "Christian World" (5th donation)	10	10	0
Bethesda Chapel, Swansea, by Rev. R. H. Jones	12	0	0
Contributions by the "Freeman"	32	0	10

Contributions will be thankfully received at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate-street; and at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co's, Lombard-street.

Post-office Orders should be made payable at the General Post-office, to the Rev. James H. Millard (Secretary), and Bankers' Cheques to George Lowe, Esq. (Treasurer).

LONDON CONGREGATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., Chairman and Treasurer.
Josias Alexander, Esq.
Mr. Alderman Abbas.
Rev. T. Binney.
Travers Buxton, Esq.
Charles Curling, Esq.
John Clapham, Esq.
William Edwards, Esq.
William Edgar, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Haller.
Rev. Newman Hall, LL.D.
Henry Lee, Esq., and Rev. J. G. Rogers, Representatives of the Manchester Central Congregational Committee.
Mr. T. C. TURBETVILLE.
Mr. T. T. CURWEN.
Mr. THOMAS SCRUTTON, Jun., Hon. Secs.

The object of this Committee is to stimulate the Congregational Churches to systematic and weekly collections on behalf of the distressed Lancashire Operatives, and especially for the suffering members of Congregational Churches. They do not undertake to distribute any funds; they simply forward such moneys as may be entrusted to their care to the destination indicated by the donors.

All communications and remittances to be addressed to Samuel Morley, Esq., Chairman of the London Congregational Relief Committee, 18, Wood-street, London, E.C. Post-office Orders to be made payable at St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The following amounts have been forwarded by the London

Congregational Committee to the Congregational Committee at Manchester:—

	£	s.	d.
Abney Chapel, Stoke Newington, per Revs. J. Jefferson and A. Hampson	7	1	6
Stratford-grove Chapel, per Rev. G. W. Fishbourne	3	0	0
Independent chapel, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, per Rev. J. Sander	2	6	0
Witheridge Independent Chapel, Devon, per Rev. John Smith	6	8	0
Poultry Chapel, per Rev. Dr. Spence, part of monthly collection, December, 1862	80	0	0
Travers Buxton, Esq.	25	0	0
Hornsey-park Chapel, weekly contributions	14	7	0
T. G. Elgood, Esq.	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert	1	0	0
Mrs. Graham's young ladies	1	10	0
Miss Fletcher's ditto	0	6	0
Mrs. Hazell, per Rev. John Corbin	0	12	6
Old Gravel-pit Chapel, Hackney, per Rev. J. Davies	240	1	1
John-street Chapel, Royston, per Rev. John Medway	40	4	0
Montreal, per Dr. John Wilkes	40	18	2
Congregational Church, Wareham, per C. Selby, Esq.	2	6	2
Falcon-square Chapel, per Rev. J. S. Hall, weekly subscriptions	8	10	0
Donation to redeem clothes from pledge in Lancashire	0	10	0
Finbury Chapel, per Rev. A. McAnslane	5	0	0
Paddington Chapel, New-road, per Rev. Henry B. Ingram	25	0	0
Finchley Independent Chapel, per Rev. C. R. Howell, specially for the suffering church-members of Congregational Churches	3	18	11
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